



Biggest demonstration since 1917 seeks end to party's domination

300,000 join protest march in Moscow

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

As the Soviet Communist Party leadership completed preparations for today's crucial Central Committee plenum, an estimated 300,000 people marched through central Moscow in what was described as one of the biggest street demonstrations since the 1917 Revolution.

The marchers condemned the slow pace of reform and demanded the removal of Kremlin conservatives.

A leitmotif of their banners and speeches was the warning implicit in events in Eastern Europe since last summer.

The demonstration was organized by reform groups, including Mr Boris Yeltsin's inter-regional group of parliamentary deputies. Its timing, on the eve of the plenum, gave reformists in the Kremlin a powerful boost in their attempt to introduce radical reform of the Communist Party from within.

The plenum is due to finalize the political platform for the party congress in

October, a document which has been the subject of open and acrimonious lobbying in recent weeks.

Preliminary information about the draft platform made public by a semi-official Soviet news agency at the weekend suggested that President Gorbachev would propose cancelling Article Six of the constitution, which guarantees the party's monopoly

Because of its 30,000 nuclear warheads, the destabilization of the Soviet Union would be a global problem, a senior Kremlin official warns. In a response to an influential American article written under the nom de plume "Z", which expressed pessimism at the prospects of reform in the Soviet Union, Mr Aleksandr Lebedev, deputy chief of the Soviet Communist Party's ideology department, contends that reform is an internal process and the West should not risk destabilization by pushing the Soviet Union too hard. Page 10

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on power. It also suggested he would call for a stricter separation of party and government authority, and a new structure for the party leadership which would allow for a party chairman and two deputies, as well as a new political executive committee comprising representatives of all the Soviet Union's 15 republics.

The news agency Interfax, an offshoot of Moscow Radio, indicated that the draft platform would offer greater autonomy for republican Communist parties and allow diverse groupings in the party.

Placards carried by demonstrators yesterday called for the abandonment of Article Six, an end to the privileges enjoyed by party officials, and the enforced retirement of Mr Yegor Ligachov, a politburo member, and General Dmitri Yazov, the Defence Minister. Mr Ligachov is regarded as leader of the conservative faction in the party leadership, and General Yazov is blamed for the use of toxic gas against demonstrators in Georgia last April and the military assault on Baku last month.

The procession was so big by the time it reached its original destination, the headquarters of the Moscow city government, that it was allowed to pass on to the vast Manezh Square, beneath the very walls of the Kremlin.

Hundreds of police, with Interior Ministry troops in

reserve, marshalled the crowd into Manezh Square. The entrances into Red Square and the Kremlin were barricaded by police.

The meeting began with a minute's silence "in memory of the victims of five years of perestroika" (including those killed in Tbilisi and Baku).

Mr Yeltsin accused the Central Committee and Politburo of being unrepresentative of the party, and condemned their "indecisiveness, half-measures and compromises" in implementing reform. He described the formulation of the party's platform as its "last chance", called on party members to suspend payment of subscriptions until it was agreed that half should go to the reformist "Democratic Platform" within the party, and demanded the removal of "Ligachov and the others".

Mr Vitali Korotich, the editor of the pioneering magazine, *Ogonyok*, said the demonstration itself had annulled the leading role of the Communist Party. "We stand here as the ruling force in the land," he said to loud applause.

Other speakers included the leader of *Shield*, the unofficial trade union in the Army, the poet Mr Yevgeni Yevtushenko, and the historian Dr Yuri Afanasyev.

Isolated placards were seen condemning President Gorbachev. Some alleged that he was protecting Mr Ligachov; others asked what side he was on. Unlike the anti-conservative banners, those against Mr Gorbachev were given a mixed reception, with the marchers generally acknowledging that he had a difficult job and deserved sympathy.

Although the demonstration had been announced as a pre-election rally before the republic and local government elections in one month, its timing immediately before the plenum turned it into a show of support for party reformists. There were repeated calls for the plenum to be televised live — a move so far resisted by the leadership.

Reformists have claimed that a radical programme is the only way the Soviet party will avoid the fate of East European communist parties. Their opponents have demanded increased discipline and ideological orthodoxy.

Preparations for the plenum have been accompanied by exposés in the official press of misdeeds committed by former party leaders.



Democracy on the march: Hundreds of thousands crossing the Moscow River yesterday in a demonstration for quicker reform on the eve of the party plenum.

Mandela release likely to be within two weeks

From Gavin Bell, Paarl, Cape Province

Nelson Mandela, the veteran African National Congress leader, is expected to be released within two weeks, perhaps next weekend, to facilitate the start of negotiations on sweeping political reforms in South Africa.

After the lifting of bans and restrictions on the ANC and related organizations on Friday, government sources said President de Klerk was considering mid-February as an opportune time to free Mandela. Mr de Klerk is understood to be planning a press conference for February 12. After visiting her husband in prison in the western Cape yesterday, Mrs Winnie Mandela said she had no idea when he would be freed.

Emerging from a five-hour visit, she said: "It doesn't depend on Mandela when he will be released. The onus is on Mr de Klerk. I am, of course, extremely disappointed

ed that I am not bringing him home with me today. He remains a prisoner."

Mrs Mandela said obstacles to his freedom, notably the retention of the state of emergency, still existed and it was up to Mr de Klerk to remove them. She added that Mandela

Pretoria (Reuters) — Suspected right-wing extremists shot at the British Embassy here yesterday in an apparent reprisal against London's support for President de Klerk's reforms. Some windows were smashed but no one was hurt.

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was preparing a statement in response to the Government's initiatives, which would be issued soon.

After overcoming the shock of being unbanned, ANC leaders are beginning to peer

cautiously through the door which Mr de Klerk declared open for negotiations. They have also been using their new-found political freedom to express their views in the South African media.

Mr Thabo Mbeki, the organization's influential external secretary, pointed out that the ANC's demands for an end to the state of emergency had not been met, but said: "If Mr de Klerk says the time for talking has come, I believe we may be saying the same thing ourselves soon."

Mr Jacob Zuma, the ANC intelligence chief, said the President was travelling on a different road from his predecessors, and had taken an big and important step forward.

"Unbanning the ANC is important, but what about all the other repressive laws on the books? We are not nipping... there are still too many laws and regulations."

Switch by Mellor on ITV quality

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A fundamental change to the Broadcasting Bill which would allow ITV franchises to go to suppliers of outstanding programmes rather than the highest financial bidder was signalled by the Government yesterday.

The switch came as Mr David Mellor, Home Office Minister, defined the "exceptional circumstances" under which the Independent Television Commission could award a franchise to an applicant who had not submitted

the highest bid. "The primary exceptional circumstance is quality," he said yesterday.

"An exceptional circumstance could well be someone exceptionally better qualified."

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ified on programming such as to justify the ITC in preferring his bid."

The Bill contains a clause referring to the ITC's "exceptional circumstances".

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INSIDE



The Mandela letters

● For the first time in Britain, *The Times* publishes the letters of the most famous prisoner in the world to his family.

● Often touching, sometimes stern, always caring, the letters reveal Nelson Mandela as a man sustained through his long ordeal by a deep family love: pages 13 and 18.

Plus

● Not with a roar but a whimper. What is the story behind Britain's record trade deficit? *The Times* begins a three-part series investigating the decline of industry: page 12.

Portfolio PLATINUM

● There was one winner of Saturday's £4,000 weekly jackpot. Details: page 3. Game: page 30

Eastern rivals

Eastern European leaders made rival presentations to businessmen at the World Economic Forum in Davos the weekend to attract foreign investment... Details, page 25
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Slovenia inflicts blow to Yugoslav unity

Ljubljana (Reuters) — The communist party in Slovenia broke from Yugoslavia's ruling party yesterday, shattering the unity of the communist movement which has ruled since the Second World War. Slovenia is the first of the eight republics and provinces to break away from the ruling League of Communists in what could be a fatal blow for the once monolithic central party.

"This is the end of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia as we know it," said Mr Ciril Ribicic, the

Slovenian party chief, after an emergency conference.

Delegates meeting in Ljubljana adopted a motion to change the party's name from the League of Communists of Slovenia to the Democratic Renewal Party, making it no longer answerable to the central party authorities.

The Slovenian decision dealt a further blow to the central party which faces ethnic riots in Kosovo province, growing nationalism, rampant inflation and calls for reform.

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Parkinson warns of further rises

By Nicholas Wood and Jamie Dettmer

Long-distance rail commuters could face further large fare increases, Mr Cecil Parkinson warned yesterday as British Rail passengers felt the first effects of the latest round of rises above the rate of inflation.

The Secretary of State for Transport was speaking on the day that higher fares on trains, the London Underground and buses came into force and a senior Conservative MP branded the state of London's tube

lines a "national disgrace". Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former minister, added to the discomfort of transport ministers by demanding "huge investment" in the Underground or

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its sale to the private sector. BR prices went up by 9 to 15 per cent, with the biggest increases for long-distance season ticket holders.

Tube and bus fares rose by

an average of 10 per cent. Mr Parkinson said the privileged position of long-distance commuters was no longer defensible.

"Long-distance commuters at present pay about 40 per cent of the standard fare. They pay less for their journey than the discounted off-peak fare and that is an anomaly that has got to be put right," he said in a BBC Radio 4 interview. "If you look at the

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Rowing boat fleet rescues Moat House police

By Staff Reporters



A storm-ravaged church at Ronfengrai, west France.

Forty senior policemen and their wives were rescued by a fleet of rowing boats when they became victims of the floods which swamped many parts of Britain over the weekend.

The officers, all members of the Police Superintendents' Association, were at a conference at the Moat House Hotel in Sandleham, Berkshire, when the river Loddon burst its banks, surrounding the hotel with water. Help arrived after an appeal was made by a local radio station.

Floods in the West Country began to subside yesterday as gales raged through France and Germany causing the deaths of up to 30 people. Weathermen said that a partial respite would follow in Britain during the next few days but

warned people to batten down the hatches for renewed strong winds and snow showers by the end of the week.

In Gloucestershire, where the worst floods in 43 years forced people to protect homes with sandbags after the

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River Severn rose 12ft above normal, a number of major roads remained closed. But roads in the Midlands, Hereford and Worcester, and the Home Counties gradually reopened as the rain eased off.

The strongest gust of wind was recorded at Berry Head, Brixham, Devon, at 83mph.

In south-eastern Switzerland yesterday, one person was killed, four were

injured and an unknown number were missing after an avalanche swept down an off-piste run on the Piz Uccello peak.

In Paris, spring-like weather returned yesterday after the worst gales in memory left 11 dead in the capital and the suburbs and 10 more in western and northern France. During a six-hour period winds of between 80 and 110mph felled thousands of trees — the main cause of deaths — cut power lines, blackening Brittany, and damaged national monuments such as Chartres Cathedral and Marie-Antoinette's farm at Versailles.

Firemen and rescue teams, who answered 8,000 calls in Paris alone, said it was impossible to evaluate the massive damage to homes and farms. Continued on page 2, col 5

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Brooke in surprise Anglo-Irish talks

Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday held an unexpected session of informal talks with Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, at a hotel near Limerick in the Irish Republic. Afterwards Mr Brooke repeated his pledge that talks could eventually be held with Sinn Féin, though terrorists would have to abide by a ceasefire first. Then, there would be a "totally new situation".

Last week's Anglo-Irish conference was cancelled because Mr Collins and Mr Ray Burke, the Irish Justice Minister, were required in the Dail to secure passage of the budget.

Government sources said topics under discussion at yesterday's talks included EC funding, cross-border economic and security co-operation, the shootings by the Army outside a Belfast betting shop three weeks ago, and the recent moves towards dialogue in Ulster. Irish sources said Mr Collins also raised the detention of the Birmingham six and Dublin's determination that their case be reviewed.

Sinn Féin talks, page 6

Ford strike begins

Electricians at Ford motor company begin an indefinite strike today as shop stewards of the Amalgamated Engineering Union meet to decide whether their members should become involved in the dispute over the 10.2 per cent pay deal and additional allowances for new skilled work teams (Tim Jones writes). The strike involves more than 1,500 members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union at 21 plants.

Police hunt rapist

Police were yesterday searching for a man who raped a nurse in a private nursing home in Tunbridge Wells at the weekend. In Norwich, 23 young men on a coach trip were arrested after two women aged 18 were sexually assaulted near a nightclub. Another woman was sexually assaulted in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Sussex police targeted the village of Ringers, near Lewes, yesterday to trap the "Werewolf Rapist", who attacked his ninth victim on Thursday.

Tests for cancer agent

Tests using a sensitive new instrument to discover the levels of pollution from car exhausts in British towns and cities are expected to show levels of the cancer-causing agent benzene for the first time (Pearce Wright writes). The first measurements, to be reported next month at a meeting of the National Society for Clean Air, were taken in Sheffield. Benzene levels are believed to be very low - however, the World Health Organization has not agreed on a safety limit.

Rift denied over job

Leading figures in the Jewish community dismissed reports yesterday that a rift could be caused by the appointment of a woman to a senior position within the Chief Rabbi's office (Arthur Leathley writes). Mrs Jennifer Wagner will become the first woman administrative director to Lord Jakobovits next month. Her role will place her in direct contact with sections of the national United Synagogue which have resisted moves allowing women to hold office on local boards.

Parkinson 'critical'

Mr Norman Parkinson, the photographer, was in intensive care in hospital in Singapore last night after a brain haemorrhage on Friday. His son Simon was at his bedside after flying from the family home in Tisbury, West Wiltshire. Mr Parkinson, aged 76, has photographed every member of the British Royal Family. His most recent royal portrait was of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, issued last month to mark the princess's 45th birthday.

Press Council

Cash crisis could mean bankruptcy

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The Press Council is embroiled in a new cash crisis that could leave it bankrupt within months.

A confidential internal report obtained by *The Times* says: "At its present level of funding for 1990 the council will not have enough money to get through the year."

The council, which is funded by the newspaper industry, has income of £574,000 to meet a revised budget of £580,000 - a shortfall of £276,000.

The financial plight has provoked criticism from the council's industry paymasters, who are refusing to meet the shortfall.

A meeting between council leaders and the representatives of the main constituent bodies which fund it is due to be held tomorrow in an attempt to resolve the deadlock.

Last year, the council spent £640,000 - £40,000 more than its budget - and forecast a further £80,000 being required this year to meet extra administrative costs caused by an increased workload.

The crisis came, however, when it discovered that its three-year-old computer could no longer cope with the work brought about by a record number of complaints from the public, and it broke down for a week in December.

"Replacement is urgent," the internal report adds. The estimated cost is between £70,000 and £80,000.

Maintenance of the council's offices in Salisbury Square, central London, which must be carried out this year according to the terms of the lease, will cost £35,000. Another £15,000 is needed for changes to the building to

accommodate staff. "These costs total some £130,000 for which no budget provision has been made," the report says.

The council tried to lessen the impact of its revised £580,000 budget by stating in the report: "On an industry with a sales and advertising revenue of £4,839 million in 1988 this estimated cost for 1989 represents a charge of less than 0.02 per cent."

However, newspaper industry representatives greeted the increased budget proposals with barely concealed fury when they met press council chiefs two weeks ago.

Mr David Ensor, deputy chairman of the council and chairman of the meeting, later told council members: "We were very much in the dock."

"The Newspaper Publishers' Association, which represents national titles, and the Newspaper Society, representing the provincial press, provide 83 per cent of the council's funding. Confidential minutes of last month's meeting confirm their opposition to providing extra cash."

Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, of the Newspaper Society, said that the council needed to be relaunched on a new financial footing.

The financial crisis comes only weeks after the council published a report on its future. That included several radical proposals which have concerned newspaper editors and proprietors.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of the council, is now likely to have to listen even more carefully to criticisms of the report if he is to stand any chance of solving the council's budgetary difficulties.

An overnight success after 100 years in the industry

Duncan LeFevre, Managing Director of Stanhills Lifts Ltd, with his highly skilled team of managers and workers have taken just five years to become what they believe to be market leaders in hydraulic passenger lifts having been market leaders for both service lifts and stairlifts for some time.

Explains Duncan, "Many of our orders are placed via specifiers and we have found that many potential clients who are not

architects may have heard of our stairlifts but have not known that we are one of the major forces in the lift industry."

Some of their better known customers include Next, Anglia Secure Homes, Whitbread, Polihomes, British Telecom, Countryside Properties...

Personal service with top quality is where they come in. Duncan's team can be contacted at Stanhills Lifts Ltd on (0264) 332765 Dept. KGTT.

Project for training vouchers may replace YTS

By Sam Kiley
Higher Education Reporter

Workers in full-time jobs are to be given training vouchers to cover the cost of part-time study in a project which could end the Youth Training Scheme. Voucher distribution is likely to begin next year.

Talks between the Department of Education and Science and the departments of Employment and of Industry will continue this week and ministers are confident other schemes will be launched soon.

Ministers are also considering whether to switch the £4 billion spent on the YTS each year to vocational training courses for the unemployed and those in part-time work. Students will get vouchers to cover the cost of teaching but there

are no plans to take up the Labour Party's suggestion that they should be eligible for maintenance grants or student loans.

Government plans to sell the Student Loans Company and the computerized personal profiles of some of Britain's highest earners to financial institutions will run into legal difficulties according to law experts.

Although banks have refused to administer the "top-up" loans scheme, education ministers say that the loans company will be an attractive purchase.

They said that banks in Luxembourg, Panama, Nicaragua or South Korea would be keen to buy the loans company because it would give them access to the names,

Radical changes are being planned by the Government for the education of the under-fives in state schools and nurseries later this year. Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, said yesterday some schools were not providing suitable lessons for the under-fives. She said pre-school teachers should be more aware of the needs of the schools.

addresses and financial circumstances of hundreds of thousands of graduates.

However, Mr Rodney Austin, senior lecturer in law at University College London, said that under the Data Protection Act it would be

unlawful for firms to use information gathered to administer loans for any other purpose.

"The decision would ultimately be with the data protection registrar, but the information stored on a computer and obtained for the purpose of administering a student loan could not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to any other party," Mr Austin said.

He added that companies could only make use of the profiles held by the student loans company if students gave their permission.

It would not be possible to insist that a student give this permission in order to receive a loan.

"That would be contrary to the Principles of the Act because all information must be obtained fairly

and used fairly. If students had to sign away their right not to have the name and address sold on or used for mail shots it would be possible to argue that the information was not gathered fairly," he said.

Mr Joe Jacob, a senior lecturer in Law at the London School of Economics, said it would probably be possible to find a form of words which would not infringe the Data Protection Act.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Science said yesterday that the Student Loans Company would be for sale. He said that "it would be up to companies to establish what use they wished to put the information the SLC gathered, and how it could be used."

Education, page 37

MP demands survey of polluting waste sites

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

An urgent national survey of waste sites which could be polluting ground water supplies was called for last night by Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment, after the Government confirmed that a survey in 1974 showed 1,300 sites in England and Wales which "could be a risk".

The Department of the Environment denied a report that the 1974 examination, which described 59 of the sites as presenting a "serious risk" to ground water through the leakage of toxic substances, had been kept secret. It had been sent to the 150 local authorities responsible for waste management, a spokesman said. But the spokesman confirmed that no national survey had been undertaken since then.

Some of the sites are known to have been covered and in effect forgotten, although they may well be continuing to pollute ground water aquifers, which provide a third of the country's drinking water.

The list was obtained by the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth, whose spokesman, Mr Andrew Lees, said yesterday that the group would be pressing the Government to bring in retrospective liability for the firms which had caused the pollution. "We think there has been little or no full investigation of the risks most of these tips present," he said.

Sir Hugh, whose committee in a hard-hitting report last week sharply criticized the Government's policy on contaminated land, said there was simply no national picture available and a new survey was urgent and essential.

"Nobody, but nobody, could tell us the size of the problem nationally," he said. "We really do not know, and it is very important that we do know."

Local authorities had details of all land subject to planning permission since 1947, Sir Hugh said, and all sites where tipping had taken place could be identified. "We need to identify them, map them and register them. It would be a massive undertaking, but it is essential, as we know some sites are leaking now."

Sir Hugh's call was echoed

by Mrs Ann Taylor, the Labour environment spokesman, who tomorrow will be putting down a series of amendments to the Government's Green Bill which would extend the proposed new public right of access to information about pollution to include waste disposal.

"This list of 1,300 sites has come like a bolt from the blue and we need a new survey now," she said.

Mrs Taylor's amendments would give the public a right to information about pollution regulated by waste disposal authorities and the National Rivers Authority. At present the proposal only concerns heavily polluting factories monitored by the Inspectorate of Pollution, and air pollution monitored by local authorities.

The National Rivers Authority, the body responsible for the quality of ground water supplies, last night also called for a register of waste dumps.

The National Rivers Authority is divided over support for the Cardiff barrage, which is the central part of the £547 million redevelopment of the city's bay. Professor Ron Edwards, the authority's representative in Wales, is opposed to the barrage on conservation grounds while the chairman, Lord Crickhowell, supports the scheme.

But a spokesman for the authority said its evidence to the parliamentary standing committee that is considering the Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill would be "honest and professional" and would be free of the views of board members.

The barrage will create a lake just before the mouths of the rivers Taff and Ely. Up to four million square feet of offices would then be built on the lakeside; there has already been a great deal of interest from businesses.

Opponents say spiralling costs, which have now reached over £100 million, and the threat of pollution have made the project unfeasible. But a spokesman for the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation rejected these worries.

The standing committee is taking the unusual step of spending a week in Cardiff to hear residents' fears about the effects of rising ground water created by the barrage.

Toll rises as storms hit Europe



Mountain rescuers lowering one of two beavers which crashed 30ft down a cliff on to a restaurant roof in Somerset yesterday.

Continued from page 1

A Pan Am Boeing 747 had a wing ripped at Roissy Airport as it prepared to take off, but the pilot was able to bring the plane to a halt. Farms and greenhouses in Brittany were damaged and thousands of small holders face ruin.

In West Germany, six people were killed and more than 50 injured as winds gusting up to 100mph ripped up trees, blew off roofs and slewed vehicles. The south and west were worst affected.

On the Sussex coast at Selsey yesterday, more drums containing dangerous chemicals were found washed up. Fifty barrels leaking the corrosive substance were washed up at Brighton and others have been seen at Eastbourne and Seaford. Police warned people not to touch the canisters which are believed to have come from the Greek ship which sank off the Isle of Wight last week.

In Nottinghamshire, a schoolgirl was killed when a storm-damaged tree fell on the roof of a car. Donna Jenkinson, aged 11, from Worksop, died from head

injuries on Saturday on the A60 at Welbeck. Her mother escaped serious injury.

In Southampton, police named a girl, aged 17, who was killed when a car skidded on a road at Romsey, Hampshire. Nicola Farrell, from Romsey, was dead on arrival at Southampton General Hospital. Her boyfriend Mr David Lofthouse, 18, is seriously ill in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

In Surrey, a man lay critically injured for up to eight hours next to the body of his 15-year-old girl passenger after

his car skidded off a road and smashed into trees. The man, aged 20, suffering from shock, the effects of the cold, multiple fractures and internal injuries, was spotted by a motorist at about 8am yesterday. Police believe the accident on the flooded Aldershot to Guildford road happened some time after midnight.

A man killed in a head-on crash between two Ford Sierras on Saturday was named as Michael Smith, aged 18, from Hythe, Hampshire. Five other people were seriously injured in the accident.

Newspapers come first, Murdoch says

Mr Rupert Murdoch said that his British newspapers were more important to him than Sky Television during an interview on Channel 4 on the first anniversary of his satellite station.

The chief executive of News International said that if a Labour government ordered that he could not have an interest in both media, his newspapers would come first. He was not, however, worried by the prospect. "The rest of the world is turning against socialism and Britain is not such an island that it will turn the other way."

Mr Murdoch denied that his personal involvement in the management of Sky a year after its launch was a sign the project was in danger. "On the contrary it is a show of confidence and a show of ded-

ication. We are pouring a lot of resources into it. We are going to get there."

Mr Murdoch, speaking on *The Media Show*, added: "If it goes wrong I am going to get blamed and nobody else."

Mr Murdoch, who is also chief executive of News Corporation, the parent company of News International, said he was unconcerned that News Corporation's investment in Sky Television was not reaping greater rewards.

"We are writing off half our profits to the establishment of Sky this year," he said. He added that sales of satellite dishes were now about 100,000 a month.

Times Newspapers, publishers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, is a subsidiary of News International.

Seven media barons dominate local radio and newspapers as well as the national press and satellite TV, according to an investigation by *Labour Research* magazine published today.

The seven, who all own national newspapers, are identified as Mr Robert Maxwell (*Daily Mail* and *Sunday Mirror*), Viscount Blakenham (*Financial Times*), Lord Stevens (*Daily Express*, *The Star*, *Sunday Express*), Mr Rupert Murdoch (*The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today*), Mr "Tiny" Rowland (*Observer*), Viscount Rothermere (*Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*) and the Scott Trust (*The Guardian*).

All have a broad range of other media interests, the magazine adds.

Vehicle production

Car makers look to Eastern Europe for low-cost plants

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

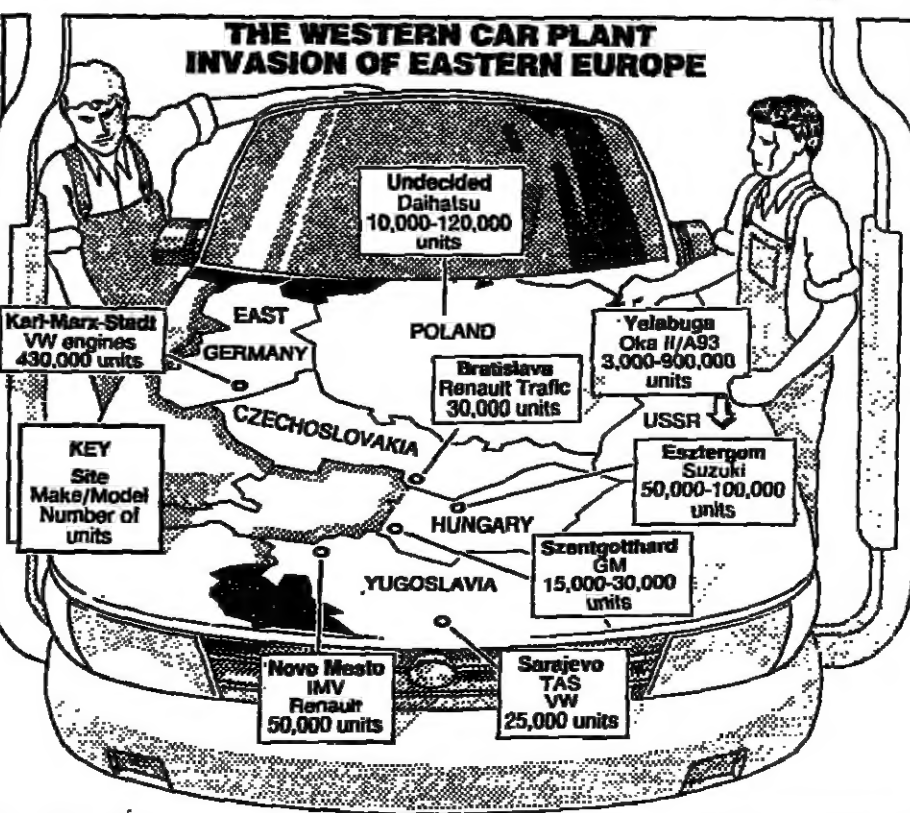
Britain is to lose its place as the most important nation for world investment in car production as manufacturers switch billions of pounds to Eastern Europe.

After five years in which Japanese car makers have spent or pledged investments worth more than £1.5 billion, Britain will see key spending in the Eastern bloc in the future.

Britain was originally chosen for its low-wage economy, skills and a willing workforce in regions keen to shrug off unemployment. It also had good export access to the wealthy nations in the European Community.

These same reasons are why manufacturers like Volkswagen, Fiat, General Motors and Peugeot are competing for talks with Eastern European governments desperate to attract high quality investment.

Industry forecasts say that the Eastern nations could be manufacturing eight to 12 million cars by the end of the decade, almost as many as the 13 million made now in Western Europe. However, most of those cars could be for export back to the West, placing a severe strain on a market already burdened



with too much production capacity.

Mr Rob Golding, motors analyst at SG Warburg Securities, said that design and build quality of Eastern European

models would change radically under the influence of Western car groups.

He said: "It does seem likely that quality will ultimately rise to a level where Eastern

Europe can achieve significant exports.

"The conclusion to be drawn is that Western manufacturers have a vested interest in establishing equity

participation early and maintaining it."

While exports will be important for hard currency, the Warburg report said there is a large market which could multiply two to three times.

Mr Golding said: "There is a high unsatisfied demand for cars in Eastern Europe. It represents a new market for the industry and motorization of these territories would become a major structural trend for the industry in the next decade if a sustainable economic revival were achieved."

VW of West Germany, which competes with Fiat for the title of Europe's biggest car manufacturer, is making substantial investment in the German Democratic Republic in anticipation of closer links between the two nations. The company is taking 430,000 engines a year from a plant at Karl-Marx-Stadt in East Germany and has proposed joint production of a new small car.

GM, the American multinational and the world's biggest motor company, is investing £91 million in building 100,000 engines and 150,000 cars annually in Hungary, while Renault of France is establishing close links with Czechoslovakia, anxious to double output from its 180,000 cars a year. Fiat and VW are competing for the

rights to build a new generation mid-range car in Poland.

It is the Japanese who, as in Britain during the 1980s, may have the biggest say in investment in the East if they can be convinced that the political situation will stabilize.

Two companies, Daihatsu and Mazda, are thought to be holding back investment proposals which Britain was anxiously seeking to join its three Japanese manufacturers, Toyota, Honda and Nissan.

In Yugoslavia, manufacturers IMV and TAS would produce Renault and VW cars under licence.

Mazda wants a joint venture and may seek out an East European partner while Daihatsu is prepared to take on the rights to a mid-range car.

Both would follow Suzuki, which has already announced its intention to invest £83 million in Hungary producing a one-litre small car badged the Cultus, known in the UK as the Swift, and for sale to both the East and the West.

Buying *The Times* overseas: Australia \$25, Canada \$20, New Zealand \$20, South Africa \$20, USA \$20.

Divorce puts men in decline at work as women achieve

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Women are more likely to do better at work after divorce or separation, while the achievements of men are prone to decline, according to a survey published today. It says employers should take steps to minimize the negative effects of a broken relationship.

It is a growing problem for British companies as more than one in three marriages end in divorce, the highest figure in the EC.

The survey in *Personnel Management*, monthly magazine of the Institute of Personnel Management, says women seem to adjust by investing in a career in order to regain self-esteem and self-worth.

"Many men have already made that investment so that they are not an option for them and they experience a downward spiral affecting many aspects of their work."

For a typical employer, the survey estimates, the cost in lost time and efficiency is more than £5,000 for every divorcing employee. "Divorced men spend more time in hospital than married men; they have a shorter life expectancy and are twice as likely to die of cirrhosis of the liver."

"The impact of divorce on work can also be seen through lack of concentration and increased errors."

Urging employers to introduce employee counselling, the study says they should also be aware that, in the case of women particularly, both the organization and the individual could gain from opportunities and encouragement to develop newly unmasked talents and ambitions.

Half the women and one-

third of the men reported their relationships with colleagues had changed after divorce from just-work relationships to more personal friendships. New intimate relationships at work were reported by both men and women, but more frequently by women.

The survey said, however, that intimate sexual relationships were likely to be counter-productive for employees and employer.

Significantly more divorced women than men showed an improvement in attendance and punctuality, hours worked and achievement. Men also worked more hours but more of them reported decreases in achievement. For men in

Downward spiral for men affects many aspects of work

particular, overtime was increasingly necessary, not only to compensate for loss of work effectiveness but to cope with commitments and legal expenses incurred by divorce.

Asked about their approach to problems arising from divorce, British personnel directors were largely sympathetic, advocating help with counselling where appropriate.

The joint UK-US study by researchers from Brunel University and the universities of Alaska and Michigan surveyed 500 managers and professional people divorced or separated since 1980.

The needs of working women solicitors, including career breaks, crèches and job-share opportunities, is a key factor among solicitors' firms

trying to recruit new entrants to the profession, according to a survey published today (Frances Gibb writes).

The survey by HAY management consultants shows that the needs of women are being tackled by firms "as a matter of urgency", as up to 50 per cent of their intake is female. There is still a crisis of recruitment but there are signs that has eased slightly with a fall-off in demand resulting from the property slump and less buoyant economy. At the same time, the supply of graduates has improved, with more places on the Law Society finals courses, the survey shows.

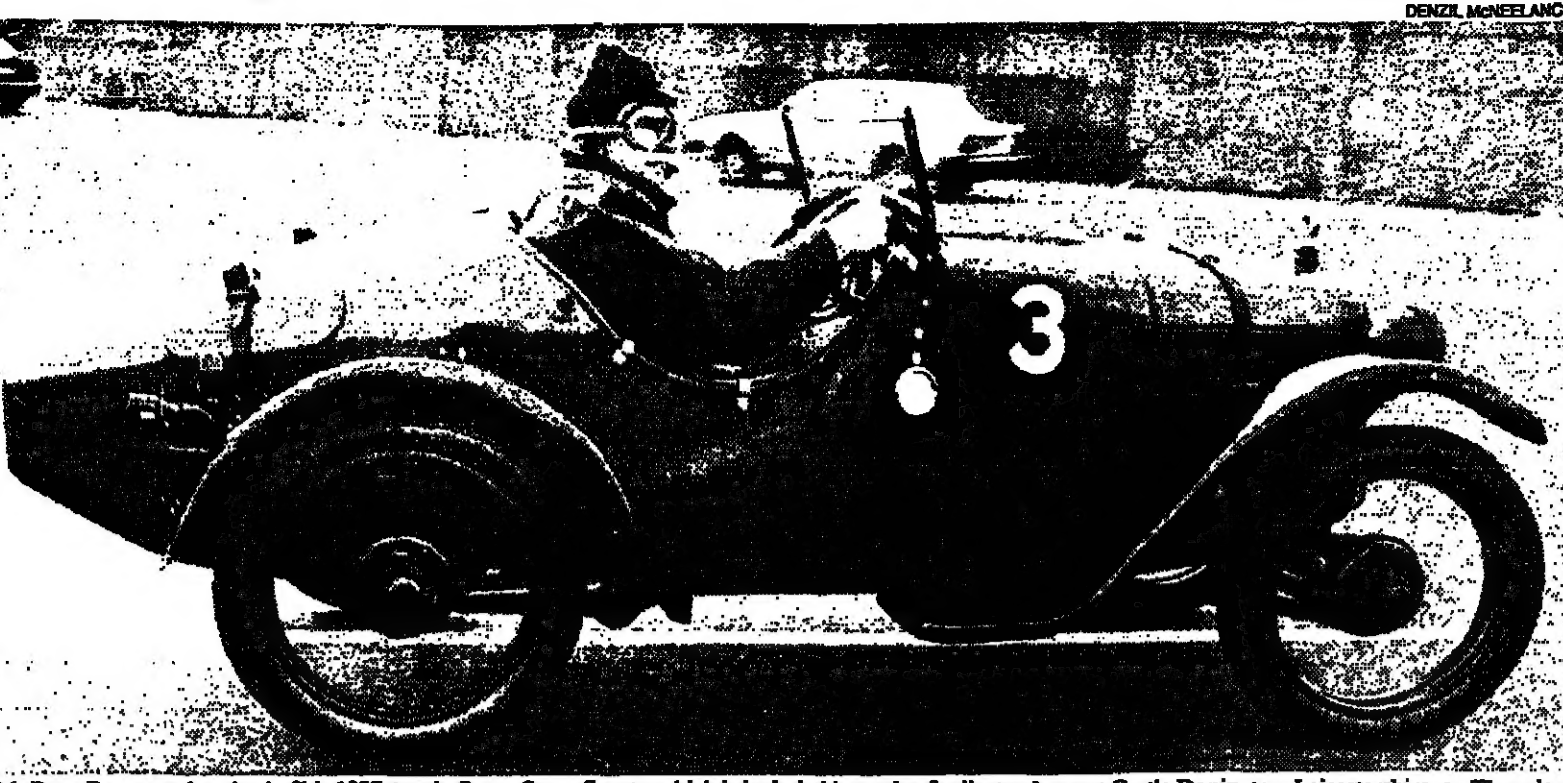
But for the time being, competition for high-quality graduates will continue; one key issue that has emerged is the approach of firms to women lawyers wanting to raise a family.

"Many firms are tackling this issue as a matter of urgency, as a high proportion (possibly 50 per cent) of their intake is female."

Compared with figures for other jobs, solicitors are consistently paid above the median, and that is most marked two to three years after qualification.

Employers of law and other graduates are expected to be tackled about their approach to working women by some 3,000 graduates at a national Law Fair on March 15 and 16. The fair, at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, is being held by the University of London Careers Advice Centre, in co-operation with the Law Society and *The Times*.

Vintage racer on course for a top price



Mr Peter Brown at the wheel of his 1927 Austin Seven Super Sports, which is included in a sale of collectors' cars at Castle Donington, Leicestershire, on Thursday. The 750cc car is believed to be one of only five built. Two others are known to exist but they are in pieces. This one, fully restored, is expected to fetch up to £22,000.

£15,000 'ransom' demand

Businessman 'trapped' in Burundi

By Craig Seton

A British businessman who has been detained in the tiny central African state of Burundi for five months claims that he is being held to ransom while he negotiates a price for his release.

Mr Tony Horobin, aged 43, a former policeman from Stafford, said a demand from the authorities that he should pay £260,000 before he was allowed to leave the country has been cut to £15,000, but he is still refusing to pay.

Mr Horobin, managing director of Delta Transport (Burundi), an export company, had his passport con-

fiscated in Burundi last September when he was accused of trying to cheat the authorities over a consignment of sugar he was negotiating to take into the country.

He was imprisoned in "sub-human" conditions for 40 days before being released last month after appeals by his lawyer, but on condition he stayed in a hotel and reported daily to magistrates.

The Foreign Office, which says that its investigation are continuing, has tried without success to secure the release of Mr Horobin, who has not been charged with any offence.

Mr Horobin, speaking from the Burundi Palace Hotel in

the capital Bujumbura, where he is staying, said: "I went to Burundi to sell sugar to the Burundi Government, but when I arrived the price of sugar had increased and I had to negotiate a better price. When the negotiations broke down and I tried to leave the country, they refused exit and my passport was seized."

Mr Horobin, married with a son aged 17, was interrogated by police and accused of trying to cheat the government. He said: "I am being treated as an international criminal. I was told that my passport would be returned if I paid £260,000." He refused to pay and in November was jailed.

He said: "I feel trapped in this country, especially as I have never been brought before a court. I am at a low ebb and cannot see a way out of the situation."

Although I think some progress has been made because they have dropped the price of my ransom to £15,000, I am not going to pay because it would be regarded as an admission of guilt when I am totally in the right."

His plight has been taken up by Mr Bill Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, who appealed for his release to a delegation from Burundi he met in neighbouring Uganda on a business trip last week.

PORTFOLIO

£4,000 for tenacious winner

It was a case of second time lucky in *The Times* Portfolio Platinum competition for Mr David Johnston, a delivery driver, who collected the £4,000 weekly prize.

"I was sure I'd won once before but found I was using the wrong edition," Mr Johnston, of St Aidan's Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, said after hearing he had won last week's prize.

"I've been entering all the time and I'm delighted to win."

Another Portfolio Platinum contest begins today. Portfolio Platinum, Page 30

Performing animals

Dispute over circus report

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A leading animal behaviourist is threatening to sue the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals if it publishes without her permission a report she has written on the treatment of circus animals.

The dispute has been brewing for several months because the report, commissioned by the RSPCA at a cost of £10,000, concludes that there is no evidence to justify a ban on circuses on animal welfare grounds.

This runs counter to official RSPCA policy for a ban on the use of animals for public entertainment which, it claims, causes animals undue distress as well as being morally objectionable.

The RSPCA says that the conclusions of Dr Marthe Kiley-Worthington's report

are not supported by the data in the report, which runs to more than 140 pages. The society cannot publish the full text legally without the author's permission because she owns the copyright.

Among its critical findings are that lions and tigers spend 90 per cent of their time confined to transport wagons and that 40 per cent of them have to be poked with broom handles to get them into the ring; that some elephants wear leg shackles for 60 per cent of the time; and that winter quartering of animals is frequently sub-standard.

"I have been revising the report in the light of comments by other specialists in the field and the manuscript is now with the printers," Dr Kiley-Worthington said yes-

terday. "I expect it to be published within the next six weeks."

Mr Arthur Lindley, head of the RSPCA's wildlife department, said: "We are seriously considering unilateral publication, though obviously we would like to avoid litigation. If the report is published in full within the next six weeks, we would be satisfied. Last October, however, she told us it would be published within two months."

Dr Kiley-Worthington, who spent 18 months touring circuses in Britain, conceded yesterday that the treatment of performing animals left much to be desired, but said she found "no conclusive evidence" that they were under greater stress than those kept in zoos, kennels or stables.

BBC may seek Proms' sponsors

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

The BBC may have to venture into commercial sponsorship to help to save £1.5 million from its music budget by seeking outside support for the Proms.

The Promenade Concerts from the Albert Hall has been organized and funded by the BBC since the mid-1920s. But by 1995, its centenary year, it could have a sponsor's name in its title.

BBC executives seeking ways of cutting the £8.9 million spent on its five orchestras, will see sponsorship as an attractive option. The BBC cannot broadcast programmes paid for by companies, but can broadcast events already funded by commercial concerns such as the Embassy World Championship snooker tournament.

Railway artist back on popularity track

The pre-war heyday of holiday rail travel to resorts along the East Coast will be recalled when a hoard of old LNER posters is auctioned in London tomorrow.

Tom Purvis, a commercial artist who died in 1959, was known as "King of the Hoardings". He popularized the coastal attractions of Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire for the London and North Eastern Railway.

The contents of his studio will be sold by Onslow's at the Carisbrooke Hall, Bayswater, London, and bring his work before a new public.

Purvis was born in Bristol in 1888. He studied under Deges and Sickert before establishing his name in the early 1920s.

His railway work was considered paramount and the 55 examples on offer — including some of his finest posters — are expected to fetch

SALE ROOM

John Shaw

between £500-£5,000 each. The sale will include other works as well as books, letters and photographs, and cartoons by Sickert, John Hassall, Bert Thomas and Sidney Strube.

Young artists sold well at an exhibition of contemporary art at the Business Design Centre, Islington, which closed on Saturday. The exhibition competition was won by Gail Dickerson, aged 30, of Battersea.

Mrs Alexandra Wedgwood, architectural archivist at the House of Lords, has traced original unpublished drawings by Charles Barry to the former archives of Tsar Nicholas I in Leningrad.

How MacHomer got it wrong

The seat of ancient Greek learning was probably in Strathclyde until a comet destroyed the lost continent of Atlantis in 1200 BC, causing the Greeks to flee Scotland for sunnier climes.

Ulysses was born in Millport, near Knapdale, on the Clyde island of Cumbrae. Shetlanders, far from being descendants of the Vikings, can look to the lost tribe of Israel, Gad, as the settlers of their islands.

All this and much more was disclosed at a remarkable press conference in the Shetland Islands, when Robbie the Pict, Mensa member, psychology graduate, non-payer of poll tax and self-styled leader of the Scottish Picts, gave details of a book to be published in May.

Scotland and Europe by

Robert H.S. Robertson is to be published by the Pictish Resource Use Institute. It will be followed by a book by Robbie, provisionally entitled *It's a Greek Tea Me*.

In a long statement Robbie traced the language of Oghams — hitherto undeciphered marks on ancient standing stones — to Basque; interpreted markings on the stones to refer to a cometary collision with Earth in 1200-1300 BC, and asserted that ancient Greek history did not refer to Greece but to Scotland.

In passing, he claimed that Norway, Ireland and Scotland were all that remained of the lost continent of Atlantis, destroyed in the aforementioned cometary catastrophe.

According to Robbie's theories, the Isle of Skye is the Greek Skios, the mythical

river Charon is the river Carron and the Styx was the Kyle of Lochalsh.

Wearing a kilt, leather jacket and a Pictish brooch, Robbie spoke in convincing detail for almost an hour. "I know it sounds outrageous but this is not an April Fool. The poll tax is an April Fool."

He was undertaking genetic fingerprinting and blood tests aimed at linking modern Greeks with the Scots, he said. Computerized comparisons had been undertaken.

The Shetland Amenity Trust archaeologist, Miss Val Turner, stunned by the scope of the revelations, described the statements as "astounding", but pointed out that much was at variance with traditional archaeology. "He's obviously incredibly well read, though," she said.

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By Queen
Proposals for an increase in compensation for prison guards sweeping in no tougher will be made by the Government in the coming year.
The departmental secretary said the bodies of the authorities for two years in two in the prison system, the continuation of the credit of the members by the Government, however, some time actually.
The House of Commons that meeting will involve a more legislative use of the use of the non-essential as a condition of release for 10 to 10 years in 10 to seven years.
The second involve the system of the prisoners that criticism that officers have.
At present, prisoners are confined to a sentence due and some additional one-through the system.
The new regime, world easier. Offenders for four years or subject to automatic

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**Gruppo Ferruzzi**

NEXT GENERATION CHEMISTRY

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Senior QCs seek talks with judges on sentences

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the Criminal Bar Association are pushing for the creation of a sentencing council or commission to formalize sentencing policy.

Senior QCs propose a series of discussions with judges as a first step to setting up a forum to debate sentencing policy to ensure it is not confined to Court of Appeal guidance.

The initiative comes on the eve of publication of the Government's criminal justice White Paper, which aims to encourage courts to impose more non-custodial penalties.

Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, chairman of the CBA, said: "We would like to see the judges entering into discussions with various organizations to ensure they have information on... alternatives to custody."

"Judges feel, and I have sympathy with this position, that it is not up to them to implement government policy; but rather to pass the correct sentence for that individual for that offence."

He said it was now necessary to look at the criminal justice system as a whole.

Mr David Cocks, QC, the CBA's outgoing chairman, said: "There should be a more formal consultative body which sets out sentencing guidelines, rather than leaving it to the Court of Appeal."

Although judges had in the past been against discussions with outside bodies, the association was hoping now to persuade them to address series of seminars on sentencing policy, he said.

A range of bodies across the political spectrum, including Justice, the all-party law reform group, the National

Council for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders; the Centre for Policy Studies; and, more recently, the Labour Party, have all come out in favour of the idea.

Mr Purnell said there were a number of question marks over the criminal justice White Paper to be published tomorrow, such as whether the judiciary would see the alternatives to custody as genuine alternatives and not just as "soft options".

"The only way they will be persuaded otherwise will be for the Government to give genuine resources to the probation service."

Alongside the White Paper, a Green Paper was shortly to be published which was expected to remove much of the probation service's work. The two had to be seen together.

The number of people jailed each year could be cut by over 15,000 if more realistic fines were set and fine enforcement procedures were improved, the Prison Reform Trust said in a report, *Tackling Fine Defaults*, published today (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Calling on the Government to ban imprisonment as a punishment for fine default the trust says the number of jailed defaulters fell from 24,492 to 16,817 between 1982 and 1988; but it says the proportion of those jailed, set against the total number of people fined, is growing.

The report accepts that the introduction of means-related fines, expected to be proposed by the Government's criminal justice White Paper, will do much to reduce defaulting.

Extra word, page 14
Letters, page 15

Community-based penalties the key to planned reform

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Proposals for a radical increase in community-based punishment balanced by sweeping measures designed to toughen prison sentences will be made on Tuesday in a Government White Paper on the criminal justice system.

The document, seen by ministers and critics alike as the boldest criminal justice initiative for a generation, has two aims: to shift the emphasis in sentencing away from prison towards punishment in the community and to restore the credibility of custodial penalties by closing the gap between sentences passed and time actually spent in prison.

The Home Office will argue that meeting the first target will involve the creation of more legislative guidelines on the use of custody and new non-custodial penalties, as well as cutting the maximum sentence for burglary from 14 to 10 years and for theft from 10 to seven years.

The second objective will involve the creation of a new system of early release for prisoners that will counter criticism that too many offenders leave jail too early.

At present, virtually all prisoners are automatically entitled to a one-third cut in sentence due to remission; and some can apply for an additional one-third reduction through the selective parole system.

The new regimen, at first glance, would seem to be yet easier. Offenders imprisoned for four years or less would be subject to automatic release at

the mid-point in sentences, subject to days lost for bad behaviour, and those serving longer terms would continue to enjoy remission at the two-thirds point and the right to parole review.

However, the Government wants all criminals, apart from adults sentenced to less than 12 months, to be subject to mandatory supervision by probation officers after release and for them to be at risk of recall to prison and heavy punishment if they commit new crimes for a period after leaving jail.

In addition, inmates will only become eligible for parole half way through their sentence as opposed to a third of the way through.

The changes carry the risk that the jail population will expand by at least 4,000 if courts do not reduce their use of custody. But ministers, who have been lobbying judges about the plan, are confident that sentences will grasp the challenge.

The Home Office will also propose giving courts the power to impose "combination orders", comprising fines, community service and probation, the last of which would be toughened and made a sentence in its own right.

The White Paper will also propose: the establishment of "youth courts", dealing with offenders aged under 18, to replace juvenile courts, where the upper age limit is 17; introduction of means-tested fines; and restrictions on the use of suspended sentences.

Holiday home burnt

A holiday house in Snowdonia, whose owner lives in Surrey, was destroyed by fire yesterday, prompting fears that Welsh extremists may have renewed their arson campaign.

The large detached house at Talsarn was ablaze when firemen arrived at 3am and there was little they could do to save it. North Wales police said they were treating the fire as suspicious. It was feared the incident could be the first arson attack by the Sons of Glynndwr in 1990.

Pipes to go

Two mile-long pipes which carry waste radioactive liquid into the Irish Sea from the Sellafield nuclear complex are to be replaced by a low-level waste outfall. Greenpeace has claimed the pipes are a pollution hazard.

Bruno weds

The boxer Frank Bruno will marry Miss Laura Mooney today at St Mary's Catholic church in Hornchurch, Essex.

Uniform plea

Sheffield City Council, which scrapped school uniforms nine years ago, is to be asked to think again after a survey showed parents overwhelmingly in favour of their return.

Top ice cream

Mr Joe Dallavalle, from Garment, Dyfed, has won the "Best in Europe" prize at the international ice-cream championships in Rimini, Italy.

Pigs killed

350 pigs died in a fire at a farm at Newbiggin, near Penrith. An electrical fault is blamed.

Bond winners

The £100,000 winning number in Saturday's premium bond draw was 24TP 504769 (Surrey). The £50,000 prize went to 25PP 145428 (Berks); the £25,000 prize to 12CN 205009 (Northants). The £250,000 winner of the National Savings bonds monthly draw is 7XN 130119 (Middlesbrough).

High interest and bankrupt outlet put paid to goat herd

By Michael Horsnell

There will be carnage amid the rustic tranquility of mid-Suffolk later this week as one of the biggest herds of goats in the country is destroyed.

More than 400 animals are to be shot at local abattoirs as a result of the expected bankruptcy of a goat farmer in the village of Peasehall.

Mr Ian Whitley, a former paramedic in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and his wife, Anne, acquired Lodge Farm two years ago but are unable to sustain their much loved and cosseted herd because of crippling high interest rates and the bankruptcy of the principal company they supplied with curds for cheesemaking.

The Whitleys, known affectionately in the village as Mr and Mrs Goat, are desolate. Cuddling Esther, her favourite four-year-old nanny, in one of the ancient outbuildings on the farm, Mrs Whitley said yesterday: "My world is falling apart. They are my life and I can't bear to think of losing them in this way."

The couple sold their home in Norwich to buy and develop the herd for milk, cheese and yoghurt. They borrowed £25,000 but interest repayments have almost doubled to £1,500 a quarter and they can no longer afford to feed the goats on their rented 25-acre farm. Sales of dairy products have suffered because of fears of listeria and salmonella.

Mr Whitley, aged 37, said: "I've spoken to the receiver and there's no way the farm could be administered. The



Death row: Mrs Whitley with some of the 400-strong herd of goats that are to be shot this week now that her Suffolk village farm has gone into receivership.

money it would cost would soon out-strip the assets."

The couple cannot afford to buy equipment for making cheese and yoghurt. As milk producers, the herd has a

paper value of £50,000. The goats produce up to 8,000 litres of milk a week.

Mr Whitley, aged 37, said: "On Christmas day we had beans on toast. The high

interest rates brought the matter to a head. We have been clobbered."

Ironically, the demise of the farm comes amid growing demand for goats milk. Mr

Fergus Clark, a director of an East Anglian health food chain, said: "Ian Whitley and his wife are our only suppliers of milk. I feel desperately sad for them. I know just how

much they have put into their farm. Goats milk is increasingly fashionable, but more importantly, essential for people with allergies to cows milk, especially children.

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Heavy winners and losers in the tale of two south London councils

Neighbouring boroughs divided by the poll tax

LAMBETH

Lambeth plans to spend £350.7 million in 1990/91. It will receive £169.5 million in revenue support grants from the Government, £50.5 million from the business rate, £4.7 million from the Government's safety net and £9.5 million to pay for education after the Inner London Education Authority (Ilea) is abolished on March 31. That will leave it with £116.5 million to fund from poll tax.

Lambeth is regarded as a high-spending authority and Mr Paul Maxted, the finance director, admits the community charge could be as high as £660. The Government's target for the borough was £308 although its average rates bill for last year was £523.

Mr Hugh Jones, leader of the opposition, believes poll tax could be higher. "If only 90 per cent of the tax is collected, a reasonable amount for Lambeth, it could be £733, which is

totally ridiculous." He believes huge savings could be made in fuel bills, repair bills and other efficiency exercises. He is also worried that people will find they cannot cope when the bills are sent out.

Council officers are very unhappy about the amount of money which the borough will receive from the Government for services this year — almost £2 million less than they expected.

The budget will be set at a full council meeting on March 9, two days before the deadline when all authorities must notify the Government of their poll tax figures.

In the last decade Lambeth has spent more on services than the Government thought it should.

In 1985/86 the council was rate-capped for the first time and to bridge the gap it began years of deferred purchases, borrowing and leasing. Last year was the first year since that Lambeth has not been rate-capped.

Lambeth feels unfairly treated and

The first English poll tax figures are beginning to trickle in — and already there are clear indications of wild fluctuations. Ray Clancy has been looking at the way two neighbouring councils will be making significantly different charges: Lambeth (Labour, with just over 200,000 on the poll tax register) is forecast to demand about £660 a head. Wandsworth (Conservative, with 172,529 registered) will seek something like £200, possibly less.

points to Wandsworth as a council which has been treated more favourably.

Miss Linda Dwyer, council spokeswoman on the tax, said: "Wandsworth is to get £120 per head from the Government's safety net yet Lambeth gets just £27. We feel that we are being penalized by a system which has been designed to benefit Tory-run councils."

Lambeth's difficulties over the poll tax have not been helped by its own anti-tax campaign. Delays in preparing for the administration of the tax left the council short of time to buy computers and employ qualified extra staff.

Lambeth expects about half of those registered to be entitled to tax rebates and is facing another big headache: getting rebate forms out and persuading people they are worth filling in.

Wandsworth estimates it will need at least £244 million in 1990/91.

It will receive £118 million in revenue support grants from the Government, £60 million from the business rate, £24 million from the Government's safety net and £10 million to pay for education after the abolition of the Ilea.

Another £31 million plus must come from poll tax. The council has a forceful

policy in pursuing arrears in rates and will no doubt follow a similar policy on the poll tax. Officers expect close to 100 per cent collection.

WANDSWORTH

Wandsworth, reputedly the Prime Minister's favourite local authority, has a Conservative majority of one. It is one of the lowest-spending authorities in the country and is accused of adjusting its poll tax to help the Tory's local election campaign in May. Average rates last year were £357.

In the 1970s the Conservatives pursued an aggressive council house selling policy. Almost half (9,000) of the borough's municipal houses are now owner-occupied. The council also saves about £4 million a year through competitive tendering.

Its privatization of a wide range of services, including refuse collection and garden maintenance, in the 1980s has

won it praise from Downing Street. At a policy and finance committee meeting on March 5 the new poll tax rate will be agreed. That will then be discussed two days later at a full council meeting.

"The community charge is the most volatile part of what amounts to a revolution in local government finance," Mr Simon Heywood, Wandsworth Director of Finance, said.

Ms Fiona MacTaggart, leader of the opposition, said: "Wandsworth Tories are mortgaging the future to win the election in May. If you pare the poll tax to the bone in the first year it will mean a 100 per cent increase in the next few years when the safety net is no longer available."

According to Sir Paul Beresford, leader of Wandsworth council, there is no question of cutting services to keep the poll tax "reasonable." He said: "We could make cuts but would rather make savings through efficiency."

Safety net

Dispute on fund that aids the low-rated

The Government's safety net was introduced because many councils faced having to ask residents to pay far more in poll tax than they had in rates.

These were the councils where residents had become used to paying low rates.

Without the safety net, poll tax would have imposed a heavy, and sudden, financial burden.

Councils with high rates were in a much stronger position to absorb the shock.

So, amid fierce controversy, it was decided that high-rated areas must chip into a fund to help the low-rated.

Both Wandsworth and Lambeth benefit from the safety net.

Lambeth gets only £27 a head against Wandsworth's £120 because its residents are used to higher rates.

An example of a very high-rated borough is Islington. Its rates last year averaged £590 and it is having to pay

£5.25million (£42 a head) into the safety net.

Its poll tax will be between £500 and £600.

The safety net will be gradually phased out.

In Wales the poll tax administrators are heading for a different but familiar kind of storm.

As the promotional and propaganda programme heats up, a multi-thousand pound multilingual campaign has been translated into many languages but not Welsh.

The advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather has been entrusted with the big-budget publicity drive in numerous languages and publications.

But although it covered seven languages, including Turkish and Gujarati, it omitted Welsh and faces a backlash from half-a-million fervent patriots who take great pride in their national language.

Administrators heading for storm on Welsh language



Hazelbourne Road, the divided street. The left side is in Lambeth, whose residents expect a huge new charge, and the right in Wandsworth, where a much smaller charge is likely.

Difference of £460 for two sides of a street

Hazelbourne Road is a street divided by the poll tax. On one side Lambeth residents face an estimated bill of £660 a head and on the other Wandsworth residents expect less than £200.

Terraced Victorian houses, most of them converted into flats, line both sides. About half are owner-occupied and the rest rented out. The two-bedroom flats sell for between £80,000 and £100,000 and rent for the flats is about £80 a week on both sides of the street.

Miss Delia Burton, aged 34, a PR executive, bought her Lambeth flat 18 months ago for £88,000. "I am beginning to regret it now. This poll tax is going to be crippling," she said. "Lambeth has always been a high-spending council but this is getting ridiculous."

Last year she paid rates of £370 and is now faced with the prospect of finding at least another £250.

Mr Tim Williams, a 25-year-old chartered surveyor, shares the top floor flat at No 14 with his friend Mr David Ewbank, a 24-year-old management consultant. Like Miss Burton they bought at the peak of the market, paying £90,000 for the long lease.

"At that time it didn't matter at all to us whether we lived in Lambeth or Wandsworth. There were flats available on both sides of the

road. But thank goodness we preferred the flat we are in now. At present we pay between us £200 in rates.

"If we had purchased one on the odd numbers side of the road we would be paying £1,200 in poll tax — six times as much as we do in rates. As it is we are going to pay between us double what we do in rates anyway."

"At the time of buying we checked the condition and the history of the flats. I am happy about this one and in view of the poll tax I am glad now that we live in Wandsworth, not across the road in Lambeth."

"Parking is the difficulty here in this road but then it's just the same on both sides — bumper to bumper."

"The flats are purpose-built — about 1920 — and are all as far as I know on long leases."

On the other side lives Mr John Burnside, aged 29, a teacher who bought his two-bedroom first floor flat for £78,000 two years ago. He is relieved that the poll tax is going to be fairly low in Wandsworth. "I'll wait until the bill comes before making any decisions, but I am sure I shall not be able to afford a holiday this year," he said.

Last year his rates were £219. "If I lived on the other side and was having to pay over £600 I would simply have to sell up," he said.



Mr Tim Williams of Wandsworth.



Miss Delia Burton of Lambeth.

Scotland faces revolt by thousands

By Kerry Gill

In Scotland, it is estimated that almost 500,000 people have either failed to pay the community charge or are in serious arrears.

The regional councils, responsible for collection of the tax, have issued tens of thousands of summary warrants to individuals demanding payment.

Almost one year after the introduction of the poll tax north of the Border, up to £200 million is estimated to be owed by debtors to the regional councils.

In Strathclyde, which takes in nearly half Scotland's population, about 250,000 summary warrants have been issued.

The next stage, expected by mid-March, could see sheriff officers being asked to take on the responsibility of collecting outstanding debts.

This could lead to pointing the process where an individual's goods are assessed for ultimate sale against the debt owed. But only luxury goods can be seized and even then a debtor has right of appeal to a sheriff.

Mr Ian Henley, of the region's finance department, is, however, fairly confident that the prospect of a visit by sheriff officers will concentrate people's minds and result in a large proportion of debts being paid.

The Scottish National Party has led a year-long campaign to persuade people not to pay the tax. Mr Kenny MacAskill, the party's spokesman on the poll tax, hailed the non-payment figures as a victory for the nationalists' campaign.

The Government, however, insists that the level of non or partial payment is roughly in line with levels seen when the rating system was in operation. In Glasgow, the rate of non-payment is as high as 22 per cent, but is considerably lower in more rural areas.

Most officials believe that the majority of non-payers are those who are simply hard up or the hard core who would pay any debt only as a last resort.

Sinn Fein grapples with electoral decline

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Political debate at the Sinn Féin annual conference in Dublin this weekend was dominated by attempts to address the party's chronically weak electoral performance over the past 12 months.

The conference, well attended but noticeably less militant than in previous years, was told repeatedly of the importance of creating a mass movement.

In a debate on "mobilizing the base", Mr James Gibney, a member of the national executive, said the party was locked into the politics of

military conflict, which "tends to freeze the mind when it comes to moving forward in a mass movement".

He identified building support in the south, where the party attracted less than 1 per cent of the vote in the last general election, as the main objective, but said there was clearly a fear among potential Sinn Féin voters of identifying themselves with the party because they risked being branded as "crypto Provos".

The problem of IRA "mistakes" was not debated but was raised by a number of

speakers. Mr Patrick McGowan, a member of the Northern Ireland executive, acknowledged that what he called "army mistakes" were a factor in the electoral decline.

Mr Richard McAnley, of the Belfast press office, struck a more contentious note: "I am not, nor would try, to underestimate the damage done to our political support by IRA operations which go wrong."

Among other problems, censorship particularly in the south where Sinn Féin is banned from the airwaves, and what the party claims is

the organized bias against it by the media, featured prominently.

The impression was of a party, seriously underfunded and undermanned, attempting to define a broader electoral strategy aimed at converting the fanaticism of the few into what it believes could be the unstoppable power of the majority.

There has been some speculation that Sinn Féin may be edging away from the IRA — of a shift from the dual strategy of Armalite and ballot box to one more centrally

based in politics. This was not in evidence. The customary salute by Mr Gerry Adams, the party president, to the IRA received resounding applause.

Mr Adams dismissed recent moves to dialogue and a call by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for talks between the constitutional parties, excluding Sinn Féin, on a devolved administration for Ulster. Mr Adams said Sinn Féin remained opposed to "any six-county arrangement whether (or not) it has the support of the Dublin Government."

Britain heading for recession 'unless pay pressure slackens'

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain is heading for a severe recession next year unless increasing pressure on pay can gradually be pulled back.

The latest report on pay levels across the country published today by the Reward Group shows an ever-increasing trend for annual basic pay increases, at 10.6 per cent for clerical workers and 9.2 per cent for operatives.

It says that while people are around 3.5 per cent better off, companies have failed to cover by about 2 per cent the

cost of the pay increases with improved productivity and output. The report, based on answers from 1,100 companies, shows that British labour costs per unit of output have increased by 8 per cent, compared to 0.6 per cent in West Germany.

Reward said that despite the need to retain good employees, companies will be forced to tone down rewards.

Almost 30,000 British Telecom managers are to be balloted on strike action after

the breakdown of talks aimed at establishing a new pay and grading structure. The Society of Telecom Executives claims BT is seeking to remove its ability to negotiate grading systems and pay and to remove protection within a performance-related pay scheme.

Farmworkers launched a national campaign for a 42 per cent pay rise at a rally in Norwich at the weekend. They are seeking £160 for a 35 hour week.

Whitehall Brief

Power of secret knowledge confronts public service notion

To a Whitehall watcher, perhaps the most shocking aspect of the Colin Wallace affair is how plausible a central element seems to be. This is that mainstream civil servants should be commissioned or omission condone illegal and unconstitutional activities by colleagues because they are wrapped in the flag and labelled state security.

At its simplest, it is the alacrity with which mainstream civil servants respond to approaches from the Security Service. More subtly, it is the dominance within Whitehall of a doctrine of *raison d'état* — that there are higher and enduring civil interests which transcend and may negate those of individual government ministers, occasionally individual prime ministers.

It is a doctrine that somehow gets bred into civil servants in such

departments as the Department of Education and Science and the Inland Revenue as well as more obvious "guardians" of national security in the Ministry of Defence or the Security Service itself.

The Inland Revenue is normally punctilious in its respect for the rights of taxpayers. However, taxmen have responded when the gentlemen from Curzon Street have come calling. Would keepers of teachers' superannuation records also open up if MI5 asked? The betting is yes. If you asked the DES official why he or she was abrogating the rights of citizens and the integrity of their own department the answer would probably be along the lines of higher interest necessities.

"Higher interest" is of course what Mr Clive Ponting said he was respecting when he leaked the

Belgrano documents. And "higher interest" was the notion repulsed when Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, as head of the home civil service, set out the duties and responsibilities of civil servants. Civil servants, he said, serve nothing higher than the ministers in power. But the integrity of the civil service is



Mr Clive Ponting (left) and Lord Armstrong. Conflicting views.

completeness of Lord Armstrong's definition is demonstrated daily in the way civil servants work.

Take the insistence heard in parliamentary briefs read last week that ministers should never see the advice tendered by civil servants to their predecessors: there is a doctrine of statehood.

During the 1980s there was a lot of talk about, and not a little action towards, making the Civil Service more management-conscious. One aspect is the creation of executive agencies to carry out state tasks of registration, payment of benefits and so on.

Will the people who run the Social Security Benefits Agency, due to be established soon, believe in *raison d'état* and, when the chap from MI5 wants a data record, respond enthusiastically? Or will they act like public servants, resenting the clandestine approach as not only undemocratic but also subversive of good management practice?

What mainstream civil servants and Security Service operatives have — till now — had in common is the self-confidence (arrogance?) bred of secrecy. It is easy to imagine how an approach by MI5 to a taxman or education official might be flattering — an affirmation that they possess the power of secret knowledge.

Take that away and all you are left with is mere public service.

David Walker

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SPEAK SOFTLY,

Britain shows approval of South African reform as liberation groups squabble

De Klerk accepts hand of friendship

By Michael Knipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

President de Klerk of South Africa yesterday accepted Mrs Thatcher's invitation to visit Britain. His speedy response is certain to be interpreted by the Prime Minister's supporters as an effective endorsement of Britain's pivotal role in encouraging progress towards reform in South Africa.

On Friday, immediately after Mr de Klerk's speech pledging freedom for Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned African National Congress leader, and the end of apartheid, the Prime Minister issued invitations to Mr de Klerk and Mandela to visit Britain. She also dropped one sanction without consulting the European Community and the Commonwealth, with whom it was agreed in 1985. This was the policy of discouraging cultural, scientific and academic contacts.

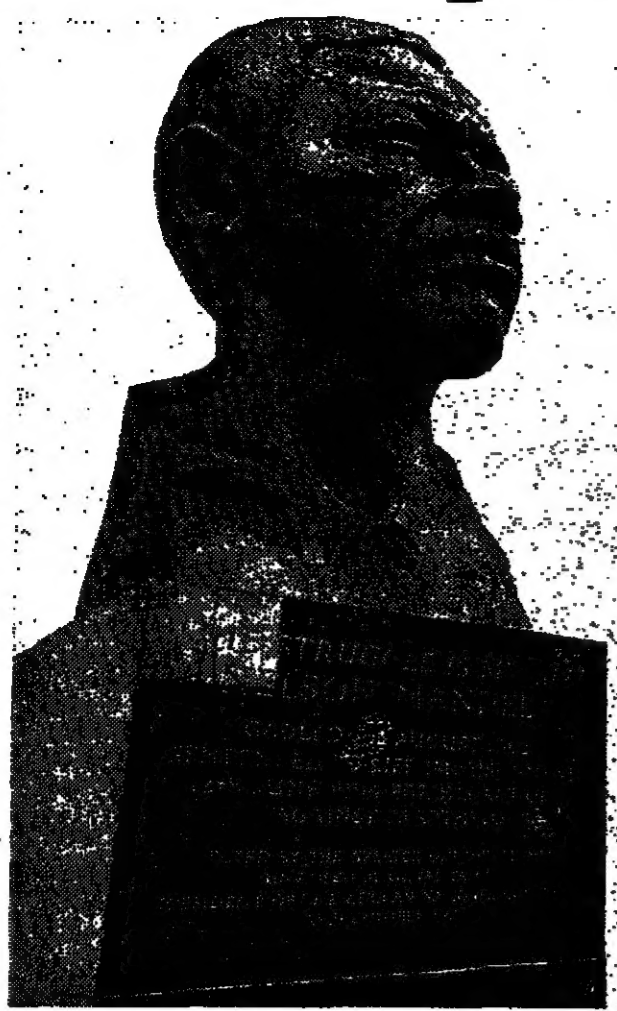
Her prompt action has angered many anti-apartheid activists, including Mrs Winnie Mandela, who criticized Mrs Thatcher in a speech during celebrations in South Africa on Saturday.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, suggested that it was still possible Mandela would also accept Mrs Thatcher's invitation, in spite of the speedy rejection of the invitation by the ANC. Disputing claims that the invitations were diplomatically clumsy, Mr Waldegrave said: "Let's see. Watch this space. I suspect this will not be the end of the story."

Speaking on the BBC's current affairs programme, *On the Record*, Mr Waldegrave said there had not been a formal response from the ANC and Mandela was not yet out of jail, but if he chose to come to Britain it would be greatly in the interests of all those who were seeking a way forward. Mandela would need to talk to his friends, and the British Government been urging Pretoria to release him for many years.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, strongly criticized the Prime Minister's action, contrasting it with her cautious approach to reform in Eastern Europe.

"When we have a revolu-



View of the struggle: The Rev Jesse Jackson and his wife, Jacqueline, visiting the bust of Nelson Mandela by the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank.

tion in Eastern Europe... Mrs Thatcher says we mustn't relax our guard. But when we have the first chink of light in South Africa, she tumbles over herself to relax what small pressure we're putting on. That lets us know how she feels about apartheid, I'm afraid," he said.

Mr Waldegrave responded by saying that those who had claimed sanctions would bring about change in South Africa had been proved wrong by events. As they had constantly complained, there were no serious sanctions and the changes had resulted from internal events. He dismissed American sanctions as trivial.

What had been profoundly important, said Mr Waldegrave, were the spiritual, cultural and market isolation — with businessmen deciding of their own free will that South

Africa was a bad risk. Mr de Klerk, like President Gorbachev, was saying that without full use of resources, both people and capital, the economy could not develop.

When President de Klerk had made perhaps the most important speech in South Africa for 30 or 40 years, it was important, said Mr Waldegrave, to make a symbolic response and that was what was being done.

Asked by Mr Jonathan Dimbleby if he would like to see the suspension of all sanctions before the establishment of parliamentary democracy, Mr Waldegrave said there was a need for caution.

"This was the crossing of the Rubicon, but the basic structure of apartheid is still there."

The Rev Jesse Jackson, the black American politician and

former presidential candidate, also appeared on the programme and pointed out that South African agreement to the independence of Namibia had been followed by 12 years of negotiations and so there was no reason to jump to dismantling sanctions.

Mr Jackson is on his way to South Africa for his first visit there since 1979. He is scheduled to meet Mrs Thatcher today before flying to Zambia. Yesterday, giving the address at St James's Church, Piccadilly, he said hope in South Africa had to be combined with caution. "If Mandela is freed tomorrow, he still could not vote or hold office, or have political enfranchisement, nor could he live where he wanted or send his grandchildren to the school of their choice," he said.

Whitehall sources said the

sanctions move was a removal of the discouragement element rather than a decision actively to promote contacts. But Mrs Thatcher presented the move in more positive terms by saying: "We shall step up our contacts."

A Foreign Office statement said: "We do not see that cultural, scientific or academic boycotts make sense or contribute to the weakening of apartheid. In future we shall not discourage (them) from going to South Africa or from joining in meetings with South Africans."

Whitehall sources said the measure was one of 12 non-binding sanctions which Britain was legally entitled to abandon unilaterally, though that would not be its normal practice.

The Government has not yet decided which of these

other measures to propose for abandonment, but is unlikely to suggest that the Gleneagles Declaration on discouraging sporting contacts should be dropped at this stage.

There are three binding measures which cannot be changed unilaterally. Britain is committed by a unanimous decision of the UN Security Council in 1977 to ban arms exports to South Africa. It is also obliged by European Community law to ban imports of iron and steel products and gold coins.

In another development Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has said that he hopes to go to South Africa soon, possibly combining his visit with a trip to Namibia to attend its independence celebrations on March 21.

Mandela letters, pages 13, 18
Tour future, page 44

Division in black nationalist ranks is growing wider

Harare (Reuters) — The split between rival South African black nationalist movements in exile appears to be widening as they prepare to respond to President de Klerk's call to join him at the negotiating table.

In spite of urgent pleas for unity from senior black African leaders such as President Kaunda of Zambia, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress are still slinging mud at each other.

The ANC, the older of the two movements battling to end South Africa's apartheid laws, is based in Lusaka, while the PAC, formed as a splinter group in the late 1950s, has its headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

They were both legalized by Mr de Klerk on Friday after 30 years spent underground and in exile.

The latest trading of invective between the ANC and PAC was sparked by an attack on the PAC late last month by Mr Thabo Mbeki, the ANC's chief foreign affairs spokesman.

He told a Dar es Salaam university audience that the PAC was "a diversion from the main course of the struggle" and had let itself be manipulated by hostile forces. "Pretoria bombs us, it raids us in neighbouring countries, it hangs our members. The PAC has never been attacked; where are its members?" Mr Mbeki asked.

The PAC hit back through Mr Joe Mkwana, its executive secretary, who accused Mr Mbeki in a letter released here on Friday of making his attack "at the most inopportune time".

He said that the PAC had led the way in the armed struggle against apartheid and rejected Mr Mbeki's charge that it was controlled by hostile forces.

Name-calling between the two movements reflects ideological differences dating back to the mid-1950s, when the ANC adopted its landmark Freedom Charter of guiding principles. Robert Sobukwe,

the PAC founder, and his allies objected to the ANC's inclusion of whites and Asians in what had once been an all-black organization, and challenged the non-racial basis of the Freedom Charter.

"We stand for a government of the Africans for the Africans," Sobukwe said.

The PAC movement now says that too, is non-racial: Mr Gona Ebrahim, its foreign affairs spokesman, is of Asian origin. Still, PAC supporters chant the chilling anti-white slogan "One settler, one bullet" at rallies.

For years both movements have been recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement, although the larger ANC has always had pride of place.

The split between ANC and PAC appears to have deepened since last August, when the ANC won a vital diplomatic victory over its rival. Mr Mbeki persuaded the OAU to endorse the Harare Declaration setting out an ANC-inspired blueprint for a negotiated settlement in South Africa.

Now the PAC accuses the ANC of appeasement by its readiness to talk. "Some leaders of the ANC are tired of the armed struggle. They have become traitors, selling out on the revolution," Mr Walter Toboti, the PAC's information director, said in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

The PAC says that it will only negotiate once the South African Government has been militarily defeated — a position likely to leave it uneaten at President de Klerk's negotiating table.

● STOCKHOLM: On its first day in 30 years as a legal body, the ANC held an executive meeting on Saturday to assess the prospects for a negotiated end to conflict in South Africa (AP reports).

ANC leaders flew in from Lusaka to join veterans recently released from South African prisons who were here to visit Mr Oliver Tambo, their siling president.

WORLD ROUNDUP

UK expulsions deepen Iran rift

Nicosia (Reuters) — Iran said yesterday that Britain's expulsion of nine Iranians would further sour relations and an Iranian newspaper said Tehran should expel a BBC reporter in retaliation. Britain said it had ordered the expulsion of the Iranians, including the London bureau chief of Iran's state television, for reasons of national security.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the British action was irresponsible and lacking in logic or wisdom. "Iran no doubt considers it as a factor contributing towards worsening the existing cold relations between the two countries, a move which at any rate would have no other results than a further deterioration of relations," the radio said. The mass circulation *Kayhan* newspaper said: "As long as Iranian reporters abroad feel insecure because of factual reporting about what is happening in the West there is no justification for the stay in Iran of the BBC reporter for spying and slanted reporting." The BBC has no full-time World Service correspondent in Iran.

Greece accuses Turks

Athens (Reuters) — Greece yesterday accused Turkey of breaking international law by expelling the Greek Consul-General in Istanbul after Athens ordered out a Turkish diplomat. Mr Antonis Samaras, the Foreign Minister, said in a statement that the expulsion of Mr Elias Klis was "impossible to justify according to international law, arbitrary, and a blatant act of political revenge". Mr Klis was expelled on Saturday shortly after Greece declared Mr Kemal Gur, the Turkish Consul-General in Komotini, *persona non grata* in a row over Greece's Muslim minority, against whom Turkey says Greece has used brute force. Nineteen people were injured in Muslim-Christian clashes in western Thrace last Monday.

New lung technique

Salt Lake City (AP) — A teenage girl was in a critical condition at the weekend after becoming the world's first recipient of an implant consisting of a slender bundle of fibres that supplies oxygen to the body. The 20-inch device, which is designed to give damaged lungs a chance to rest and recover and then be removed, was implanted by Dr Roger Millar in a two-hour operation. Two tubes the diameter of a drinking straw are attached to the bundle of fibres and leave the body: one delivers oxygen to the body from an oxygen system or tank, the other removes carbon dioxide, a waste product of breathing. The Intra-Vascular Oxygenator could lead to the development of a man-made lung, according to Dr J.D. Mortensen.

Priceless relics stolen

Rome — More than 200 archaeological relics, including a famous bronze statue of Bacchus, have been stolen from the strong room of excavations at Herculaneum, near Pompei (Paul Bonaparte wires). Five armed men surprised and tied up six security guards when they broke into the strong room on Friday night and then spent four hours carefully selecting the most important pieces. At dawn they made off with a priceless collection of ornaments, jewellery, coins and sculptures buried in 79 AD by the lava from Vesuvius. The bronze sculpture, 30 inches high, is inlaid with copper and silver and was discovered in 1961 in the lava-filled workshop of a Herculaneum craftsman. Reproduced on postcards, it had become a symbol of Herculaneum.

Tamils held in Nepal

Katmandu — Nepalese immigration authorities arrested 15 Tamils while they were about to travel to London on forged passports in December and January (A Correspondent writes). The 15 have been ordered out of the country. Radio Nepal reported here yesterday. The report did not say whether they were Sri Lankan or Indian Tamils.

Beirut barrage drowns out the cries for mercy

From Juan Carlos Guncio
west Beirut

A storm of exploding shells and rockets yesterday drowned desperate calls for mercy for half a million east Beirut residents. They were trapped in basements as the conflict between rival Christian groupings entered its fifth day with no near end in sight.

One of the most vicious rounds of fighting broke out early yesterday when General Michel Aoun's forces launched a tank-led attack on the headquarters of the Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Samir Geagea.

Although the militia denied reports that its headquarters at

the Karantina seaside district had fallen to the army, there were suggestions last night that General Aoun was making some progress on at least two fronts.

Shells and rockets exploded at a rate of one a second for more than one hour as the army launched a fresh wave of simultaneous assaults on the militia's stronghold.

More than 200 people have died and nearly 1,000 have been wounded since General Aoun, in a bid to become the sole master of the enclave, declared war on Christian rivals last Wednesday.

Yesterday's battle stretched from the southern suburbs of

east Beirut to the northern suburb of Dbayeh, a six-mile front which has become the biggest challenge to General Aoun's army.

East Beirut residents most probably no longer have doubts about General Aoun's publicly expressed readiness to destroy the city in pursuit of his own goals. As fires, exploding shells and the trail of rockets lit up the sky last night, the Voice of Lebanon, radio mouthpiece of the Phalangist party supporting Mr Geagea, began calling General Aoun "the Nero of Beirut".

The unofficial casualty report said at least 30 people

perished yesterday in the relentless bombardment of residential areas. "It is as if they have been putting east Beirut in front of a firing squad and executing it," said one resident of the embattled Ashrafieh district.

The sixth Vatican attempt to arrange a ceasefire to rescue the wounded collapsed shortly after noon, frustrating efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross to rush oxygen, blood and medical supplies to east Beirut's crowded hospitals.

One radio report said the St Peter and Paul Hospital was set ablaze after receiving three direct artillery hits. Scores of

shells crashed in the streets of west Beirut, prompting speculation that General Aoun may be seeking to provoke the Syrian Army in the belief that Syrian retaliation could unify and reinforce his ranks.

The shelling of west Beirut has killed at least 25 people and wounded more than 100 others since Wednesday, but the army, the Muslim militias and the Syrians in the western side, in line with President Elias Hrawi's low-profile policy in this conflict, have apparently refrained from returning fire.

General Aoun's failure to crush Mr Geagea's 10,000-

strong force despite his army's firepower superiority has provoked rumours that unless he finishes the militia in the next few days, he risks being overthrown by his own troops. A senior army officer in west Beirut said yesterday that hundreds of troops had defected and crossed the "green line" into the Syrian-controlled sector of the city in the past two days.

According to military sources, at least 1,000 soldiers have deserted General Aoun's army since Wednesday — 600 to the Lebanese Forces and 400 to General Emile Lahoud's army in Syrian-controlled west Beirut.

Disarray in White House policy on global warming

From Martin Fletcher and Susan Ellicott, Washington

The Administration is split over an important speech on global warming which President Bush is to make today.

The draft of the speech, produced and endorsed by senior officials at the Departments of State and Energy and by the Environmental Protection Agency, emphasizes the seriousness of the threat and lays stress on the steps already taken by the US to counter it. This draft is clearly intended to put Mr Bush in the vanguard of world efforts to combat the greenhouse effect.

But Mr John Sununu, the White House Chief of Staff, rejected the draft and produced a version arguing that scientific evidence on the seriousness of the problem is inconclusive.

Mr Sununu, a trained en-

gineer, believes that measures to curb global warming would have serious economic repercussions and should not be adopted unless the environmental benefits have been firmly established.

It is not known which version, if either, Mr Bush will deliver in Washington today to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the body set up by the United Nations in 1988 to study global warming.

The dispute is one in a long series on the environment between, principally, the pragmatic Mr Sununu and Mr William Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr Bush promised to be an environmental President during his election campaign, but

environmentalists say he has not fulfilled that promise. Last week, however, he allocated \$1 billion (£660 million) for research into global warming.

There is no question that what American environmentalists hope to hear from him today is a firm commitment to counter global warming.

Mr Bush has been "greening" himself for the past year in efforts to live up to his campaign pledge, but environmental groups are probably going to be disappointed.

Environmental lobbyists are embarrassed at the division within the Administration, especially that the US is lagging behind commitments by European countries, excluding Britain, to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2000.

Washington report attacks abuse of rights in China

From Robert Pear, Washington

In a sharp departure from the Bush Administration's cautious statements on China, a confidential State Department report says there were pervasive and severe violations of human rights in Peking, Tibet, and other parts of China last year.

The report says the massacre in Tiananmen Square and the subsequent crackdown on independent political activity violated almost every internationally recognized human right.

Since June, the report says, the Chinese Government and the Chinese Communist Party have tightened ideological control of students and scholars, reasserted political control over trade unions and Chinese journalists, "crushed an incipient human rights

monitoring group" and adopted new security regulations restricting foreign travel and the movement of Chinese citizens inside the country.

The report, which is required by law and is scheduled for publication on February 21, is the most meticulous, thorough and authoritative assessment of human rights in China by any government or private agency.

It reads like an indictment of Mr Deng Xiaoping and "a closed inner circle of a few senior leaders" who it says are determined to retain power, regardless of the people's wishes.

The study was reviewed but evidently not watered down by the White House, which has in the past instructed Administration officials to re-

frain from public criticism of human rights abuses in China.

The White House and the staff of the National Security Council concluded that they would cause more of an uproar if they tried to censor the report than if they allowed its publication. Administration officials said Saturday.

The new report concludes that "the human rights climate in China deteriorated dramatically in 1989" with the killing of scores of people in Tibet. "Several hundred and possibly thousands of people" killed in Peking, and a score executed for "clearly political offences" after secret trials devoid of procedural safeguards. "At year's end, the crackdown was still continuing," the report said.

New York Times

US door opens for Greene as Cold War fears fade

From Susan Ellicott
Washington

The United States has finally concluded that a visit by Graham Greene would not destabilize the nation. In a mirror version of *glasnost*, Congress has just eased a rule left from the Communist-bashing days of the McCarthy era that forbids entry into America by foreigners with certain political beliefs.

For the past 38 years, the US immigration authorities have required visitors seeking entry to the US to mark a box on their visa applications stating whether they espouse communism. A tick ruled out even the opportunity to queue for hours with other so-called "aliens" at America's ports of entry.

Now the Cold War is officially over,

even staunch conservatives and the cautious State Department appear to have agreed that the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, passed in 1952 to shield Americans from subversive ideas, is outdated.

The law also bans foreigners from entering the US for 32 other reasons, including belief in polygamy, involvement in drug trafficking and practice of "deviant sexual behaviour".

The Act's restrictions on political ideology or party membership were relaxed twice in the past three years, but the State Department objected on grounds that letting in foreigners with certain ideological beliefs could have "potentially serious adverse consequences" for US foreign policy.

Figures who fell foul of the restriction include Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Colombian author, Gnanan

Greene, Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Dario Fo, the Italian playwright, and Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister.

Thousands of lesser known people also found themselves barred from visiting what they thought was the haven of free speech.

"For a generation and more these miserable provisions made the United States present itself to other nations as a nation of fearful, subdued, intimidated citizens," said Senator Daniel Moynihan, a Democrat who sponsored the repeal law that was unanimously passed 98-0 this week. "We were not that; we are not that, and now at last our statutes accord with the facts."

The repeal law does, however, still allow Mr James Baker, the US

Secretary of State, to refuse entry to a foreigner who is known or suspected of being a terrorist. It also only covers people seeking short visits.

If Greene were to apply for permanent residence he could, to the annoyance of civil libertarians, still be barred because of his political beliefs. Not that Greene is expected to rush to apply. He seems content living as a virtual recluse in the South of France and one of his books, *The Quiet American*, paints an unsympathetic picture of Americans abroad.

President Bush is expected to sign the repeal into law. The State Department said the measure would not alter US foreign policy much, since most people initially refused entry in recent years have been granted waivers if they did not represent a threat to national security.



Graham Greene: Political views made him unwelcome.

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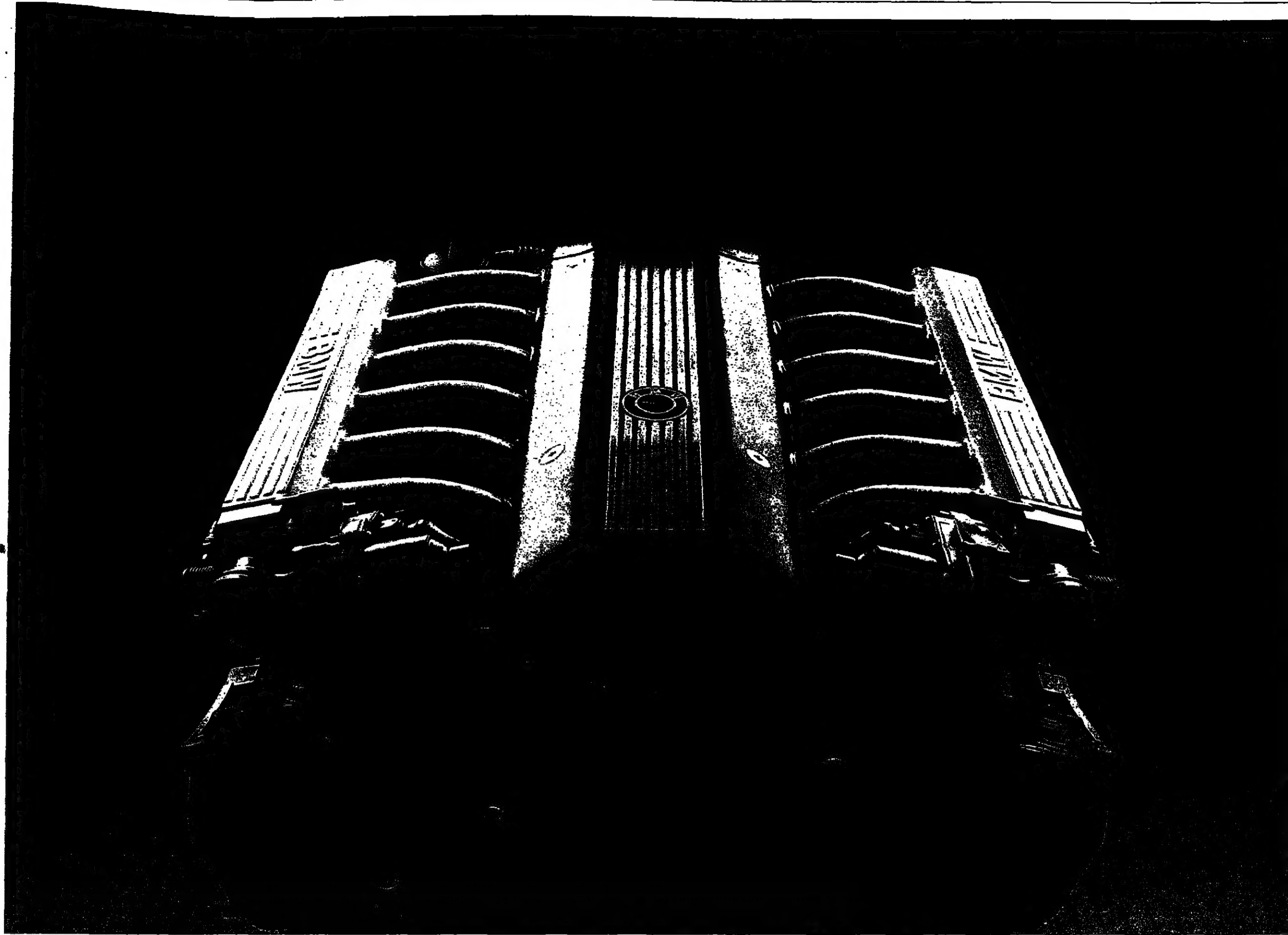
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AND CARRY A BIG STICK.

Those words were first used by Theodore Roosevelt to describe US foreign policy.

But they could easily be used in 1990 to describe the BMW 750i. For the sheer majesty of the car belies its might.

Beneath the bonnet sits a perfectly balanced V12. A 5 litre engine that sweeps the car from 0 to 60 mph in precisely 7 seconds. And develops 300 bhp.

Super power, indeed.

The walls of the cylinders are machined from lightweight aluminium, to an accuracy of 1.5 microns. (To put that into perspective, a human hair is 50 microns thick.)

The result is the most harmonious engine found in any luxury saloon.

Policing its performance, there are two Motronic engine management systems.

Their sensors, like so many nerve endings, continually monitor the engine's performance. Retuning it up to 600 times a second, to ensure peak efficiency at all times.

Such an unconventional engine seemed no place for a conventional throttle cable.

Instead, BMW have installed an electronic accelerator. A device that speeds the driver's commands from pedal to power plant by voltage rather than linkage.

The automatic gearbox also integrates engineering with electronics.

BMW's engineers have developed a four speed transmission that 'talks to' the engine management system each time it shifts gear.

Changes are so smooth, you may need to glance at the rev counter to detect them.

To transfer the power to the road equally smoothly the 750i is equipped with ASC. BMW's Automatic Stability Control.

It ensures you have traction at all times, by adjusting the engine output if it detects the merest difference in speed between the front and rear wheels.

This concern for your well-being continues inside the car. The sports seats are made of the finest Nappa leather and can be adjusted electronically.

While to ensure that good relations between driver and passengers prevail, separate air conditioning is provided.

What's more, the electronic power steering is road speed related, so it proves equally responsive whether cruising down the motorway or easing into a parking place.

The final words on the subject belong to 'What Car?' "BMW's new 750i comes tantalisingly close to Motoring perfection."

A remark that was elicited without recourse to any big stick.



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Kremlin breaks its silence to answer 'Z' as a vital week begins for the Soviet Communist Party

The global threat posed by instability in Moscow

On the eve of the crucial Central Committee plenum opening in Moscow today, a highly placed Soviet official has for the first time responded to the article on Soviet reform by an author known only as "Z". The article, which has stirred extensive debate in the West, appeared in *Dziennik*, journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and excerpts were reprinted in *The Times* on January 11. "Z", presumed by many to be a top US diplomat, argued that President Gorbachev was in serious trouble because he refused to choose between "Leninism and the market" and strongly implied that it was not in the West's interests to save him. The reply printed here, signed by Mr Aleksandr Lebedev, deputy chief of the Ideology Department of the Soviet Communist Party, was issued directly from the offices of the Central Committee.

Does Z really think that if he builds a Capitol atop the Kremlin Hill he will solve the problem of democracy in Russia? No, the democratic road followed by the Soviet state, and I'm convinced it will follow it, will not be a copy of anyone else's.

It stands to reason, however, that this system will have to respect all the universally accepted norms of civilized society, everything covered by the concept of *glasnost* and democratic choice.

Z says there is no third way between Leninism and the market. Yet Lenin himself advocated a market economy. Nor did he regard the market as a temporary measure but as a long-term policy.

It was Stalin who "closed" the market, which doesn't mean the deplorable social waste that has notoriously been part of classical capitalism. Non-sectarian socialism makes this quite feasible. All the more so because classical capitalism, too, with its "unrestricted free enterprise and unlimited competition" has long since become part of classic literature.

What else does Z think is hindering Moscow's ability to take a third path between Stalinism and Western capitalism? The "lawless leading role of the party", he says. Here I want to avoid a scholastic discussion about the legality of the party's leading role, especially because in Eastern and Central Europe communist parties are renouncing that role unaided.

Free elections will show before the year is over what the political balance is in each specific country. Nor will these elections be the last. The balance, say, over the next five years, may change more than once. The important thing is that the new parties now emerging should not succumb to the temptations of authoritarianism or political and ideological intolerance. (I fear, though, that this is already happening here and there.)

Time will tell. In any case, the arduous and contradictory process under way in Eastern Europe was not just spontaneous. It was precipitated above all by the example — but certainly not the export — of Soviet *perestroika*.

Some say we are now lagging behind our fast-moving European neighbours. But would it not be reckless folly in so gigantic and contradictory a country as the Soviet Union to make the passage to a new order at one go? The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) has been able to maintain a broad public consensus over decades.

Previously, in the totalitarian climate, this consensus seemed to rest exclusively on suppression, fear and the power of the state. Today everything appears to be far more complex. Conservatism is much more deeply rooted than we thought. At the same time centrifugal tendencies have grown stronger, with political pluralism asserting itself increasingly through, among other things, the emergence of various new movements, some of which have all the trappings of political parties.

In this setting, the CPSU is, for the majority of our society, an essential factor ensuring broad consensus concerning the transition towards democratic and humane socialism. The party has been working out these concepts on its own initiative, and is maintaining a dialogue with a variety of currents. At the present stage, the CPSU is the only party that has enough potential to ensure the least painful passage from totalitarianism to the rule of law and an open society.

The people who are in the party today have a wide range



Part of yesterday's pro-democracy march in Moscow. "It is essential the new power structures should have time to take root before the old are torn down."

of views — from Nina Andreyeva, the Leningrad teacher who symbolizes the conservative viewpoint, to liberal historian Yuri Afanasyev, and a highly diverse spectrum of opinions in between.

Why is this? Is it because of inertia, because of a lack of multi-party experience, or because of a low level of political culture? Partly so. But there is another more weighty reason: responsible politicians are aware that the redistribution and shifting of power must not destabilize the country.

It is no abstract issue whether the Soviet Union remains a world power or shrinks, as some predict (and probably wish), to the size of the Principality of Monaco.

This is not just an internal or regional problem. The danger of destabilizing a country that has 30,000 nuclear warheads and other weaponry is a global problem. This means that the pace of change in the Soviet Union should also be viewed from the angle of its

international responsibilities. It is wrong to prod us on. In a few years, society will be entirely different anyway. There is little doubt about that. Already the most audacious forecasts have fallen short of the actual reconstruction of the Soviet political system achieved in just the past year.

And the present processes are continuing rapidly. But it is essential that the new power structures should have time enough to take root before the old ones are torn down. So far, this difficult process is being controlled by the CPSU, which is doing its utmost to prevent the country from galloping past the stage of democracy into anarchy and chaos.

That danger has obviously increased due to the sharpening of contradictions between the nationalities within the USSR. It is common knowledge that, when a power vacuum appears, it is instantly

filled by extremists. This is hardly in the interests of the West, irrespective of the type of extremism that seizes power — neo-Stalinism or left radicalism.

I have no doubt whatever that the CPSU will itself renounce its constitutional enshrined right to the leading role and monopoly of power. Z does not believe this will happen. Well, time will show which one of us is right.

I know my reasoning is not likely to convince Z, because he doesn't accept the idea that there can be any alternative development of Soviet society. It is for this reason that he has drawn the conclusion that "Mr Gorbachev is beyond our help", and that any such help would "only prolong the agony". Whose agony? Whose Z wants to die?

He is contradicting himself. Z insists that Gorbachev should not be helped even if *perestroika* leads from a "party-state and command economy to democracy and the market". Yet, what more

could he wish? What else could help avoid harrowing agony? All I can conclude is that Z, for some reason, refuses to believe that our situation will change further.

It thus follows from Z's logic that the best thing is to push the Soviet Union towards a crash, to hasten a collapse. But doesn't he see that, in view of the present balance of strategic military forces, that agony might become global?

What, in the end, is the substance of Z's recommendations for the West's strategy vis-à-vis the Soviet Union? He says nothing is happening in the Soviet Union, everything is as it used to be, and it is high time for the West to get rid of the euphoria created by Gorbachev's *perestroika*.

It is time, he says, to see the light and help the Soviet Union die more quickly. This conclusion, I think, borders on political surrealism. It reminds me of the Stalinist

notion of socialist realism, a Soviet art method that exchanged wishful thinking for reality and declared the undesired non-existent.

Can Z's recommendations be seen as a serious response to the truly new Soviet policy, both internal and foreign? A policy that is based on an entirely different philosophy from before, based on the reality of the increasing mutual dependence of the whole world and on the primacy of the interests and values of humanity over other interests, including class, ideological, national and religious?

The letter Z is close to the letter X, and comparisons are unavoidable. In 1947, X, that is, George Kennan, gave the West the strategy of containment. That strategy served the Cold War era and had a historical logic behind it. Alas, it determined East-West relations throughout the post-war years.

As for Z, he suggests an ostrich policy — a policy of hiding the head in the sand

and trusting that this helps realities as they are. It is up to the West, of course, to decide what it wants and what it does not want. As for the Soviet Union, it does not need praise of *perestroika* — or Gorbachev — or Western charity. What we are entitled to, however, is a constructive answer to our clearly expressed readiness, backed by concrete steps, to be integrated in the world community with all the commitments this involves.

What I am driving at is this: in response to the new political thinking affirmed by the Soviet side's strict adherence to the freedom of all nations to choose their own way, the West, too, should come forward with a truly new strategy, a long-term strategy not subject to unpredictable here-and-now fluctuations. It should come forward with a new strategy that does not succumb to the temptation of deriving unilateral advantages by abusing the other side's restraint or domestic difficulties.

Certainly, complete symmetry in the policies of the US and USSR is hardly possible. At least not overnight. But mutual consideration of interests is absolutely essential, especially considering that our interests do not necessarily coincide, or given the obviously different assessments of particular actions, such as in Panama.

I can only hope that a more interesting proposition for a Western strategy will surface closer to the spirit of the times, to the demands of the technological revolution and the deteriorating ecological problems rather than the spirit of the old poisonous stereotype: whatever is good for the other fellow is good for me. The world is changing profoundly. All societies are evolving rapidly. Former adversaries are likely to become partners in the face of the changes and the growing common dangers.

Does Z think this view is naive, dangerous romanticism and unrealistic? I can only hope that it is not Z and his confederates alone who make the policy of the United States, to say nothing of the West as a whole. Otherwise a historic chance may be forfeited by all — East and West, North and South. Who knows if there will be another favourable chance, and when? © 1990, *New Perspectives Quarterly*. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate.)

Hammer and sickle give way to imperial flags at rally for democracy

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Muscovites are used to organized marching. They march on May Day and on November 7, the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

But yesterday's march was different. Under a sunny sky, with new snow on the ground and the temperature hovering around freezing, an estimated 300,000 people of all ages answered the call of the Soviet capital's reform groups and turned out to support further and faster *perestroika* — and there was not a hammer and sickle in sight.

The blue, black and white flags of old Imperial Russia waved alongside the cross of St Andrew, Russia's patron saint. There were portraits of Mr Boris Yeltsin, long the inspiration of radical

reformers, and memorials to the late Dr Andrei Sakharov, whose cause the marchers said they were continuing. But the soul of the demonstration was in the home-made posters which expressed, some with blatant simplicity, some with biting wit and some with obscure allusion, the contempt of ordinary people for the Communist Party establishment — the *nomenklatura* — and its grip on power.

"*Nomenklatura*", read one large poster, "remember Romania". "Boys (the barons of medieval Russia), we are coming for you," said another.

"What sort of a demonstration is this?" asked one bystander. "I thought it was going to be for reform, but it looks more anti-communist." Some of the older people, for whom this was clearly a novel experience, smiled and joked with

childish glee as the march gathered strength — and not a trace of the fear in which they had lived most of their lives.

Many placards called for an end to party privileges, one of the most popular components of Mr Yeltsin's political platform. "Keep your ears and snouts out of the trough," said one. "The privileges of the party should be handed over to its victims."

The "parocracy", shorthand for the closed circle commonly believed to rule the country, came in for ribald comment. Some called on the party to "repent before the people". A hand-drawn poster showed a stubborn donkey labelled "Congress of the Soviet Communist Party". The party's conservatives were repeatedly condemned as fascists.

"Cancel Article Six" was a common

refrain, referring to the reformists' moves to have the party's constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power removed. "Consign Article Six to a museum — and send Yegor (Ligachov) after it," said the boldest.

Traditional Soviet reticence about naming names was abandoned as placard after placard called for the retirement from the leadership of Mr Ligachov, the Secretary for Agriculture, who is deemed to lead the conservative faction, and General Dmitri Yazov, the Defence Minister, who is popularly held responsible for the use of toxic gas against unarmed demonstrators in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, last year and the military assault on the Azerbaijani capital of Baku last month.

Spontaneous though the laughter and the bonhomie of the crowds went, the

demonstration had been carefully planned. Moscow radio broke with the practice of decades and not only reported the demonstration, but announced it in advance. Its morning bulletins urged "all democratically minded Muscovites" to take part, and gave details of where to go and when. Many hours of work had gone into the banners, and each electoral region of Moscow had sent a delegation.

But when, after nearly two hours, the first echelons reached the planned destination, the headquarters of the Moscow city government, it was clear the police had miscalculated. There was confusion among the uniformed rank and file as they were moved back into the vast Manezh Square, just below the walls of the Kremlin. The marchers jeered and whistled. This was where they had been

stopped last year at Mr Yeltsin's election rally. One young policeman was heard to joke to his companion: "We might as well go home."

But they did not go home: they marshalled the column of demonstrators as it curled round into the square, progressively widening their corridor at the request of the organizers to accommodate the growing numbers. More police, supported by Interior Ministry troops in dozens of waiting buses, stood three deep guarding the Kremlin and Red Square from the onslaught.

The onslaught never came, however. A biting wind, falling temperatures and gathering darkness sapped enthusiasm, and all but the hardiest started to disperse after cheering their hero, Mr Yeltsin, and other radical leaders with the call "Long live freedom".

Modrow drops insistence that unified Germany be neutral

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Germany can be unified without being neutral, Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, accepted yesterday. He made this important concession only four days after announcing a four-step plan for reunification in which withdrawal of Nato troops was an essential precondition.

The beleaguered East German leader accepted the possibility of a non-neutral united Germany in a radio interview at the business forum at Davos in Switzerland, where he had been left in no doubt that West Germany would not leave Nato.

He made the same concession in an interview on West German television. "I am offering this as something to be considered for discussion," he said, when asked about his proposal for a neutral Germany. "I cannot expect to make a suggestion and have it greeted with joy, with everyone saying 'that is exactly how it must be'." Herr Modrow said.

status. "That has contributed to change its name to the Party of Democratic Socialism (Aune McElroy writes). It said that the old title was reminiscent of the Stalinist leadership."

reforms. The imminent collapse of the East German economy and the threat to security this entails would seem to be the reason both men have given way on central points of principle.

After a meeting with Herr Modrow, the Chancellor said that the exodus of young East German workers, at a rate of 2,000 a day, was worsening the crisis, which was growing much faster than he had envisaged when he drew up his 10-point plan for unifica-

tion last November. That plan was for establishing a range of co-operation treaties, negotiated with the new Government, resulting in confederal structures which in turn would lead to unity.

That timetable now seems to have gone by the board. "What worries me specially is the enormous loss of the state's authority," Herr Kohl said. "The collapse of the economic substance is proceeding apace and people have for the most part lost hope that things will get better. It has to be our common concern to stop this."

The two men are to discuss a range of ideas on February 13 and 14 when Herr Modrow visits Bonn. Many leading West German politicians have objected to the trip because it gives Herr Modrow, the transitional communist Prime Minister, too much publicity before the election.

The parlous state of the East German economy, however, means that all sides now recognize the urgent need for talks and help.

"We have to show the way into the future even before the elections," Herr Kohl said after his meeting with Herr Modrow.

ideas by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, for an international referendum within the alliance on unity. That would go against the principle of self-determination. Herr Kohl said, and he would have nothing to do with it. In his speech to the forum, Herr Kohl said that any attempt to slow the drive to German unity would lead to crisis and make an economic recovery in East Germany almost impossible. Pointedly, for Herr Modrow's benefit, he said that any plan for unity based on neutrality was dreamed up by someone "who understands nothing about history or geography".

Within 24 hours Herr Modrow conceded the point. He told Swiss radio that "a united Germany, without neutralizing the new federal state, is possible". His ideas for a militarily neutral Germany were an opening offer for a dialogue and were not "hard and fast", he said.

While the pace of change is leaving planners in Bonn breathless, Herr Willy Brandt, the former Social Democrat Chancellor, estimated at the weekend that reunification would be a lengthy process and that it would take most of the rest of the century to complete the necessary negotiations.

Break-up in Yugoslavia

Slovene communists go their own way

From Densa Trevisan, Belgrade

The Slovene communists have formally seceded from the Yugoslav League of Communists and announced they would go their own way, setting up an independent organization and naming it the Democratic Renewal Party.

At the conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, the delegates announced that from now on the League of Communists of Slovenia, under the new name, would have its own programmes, its own statute and while inviting partnership and dialogue with all who adhere to democracy and reforms would in no way regard itself bound by the rules of the Yugoslav communist party.

The decision concludes formally what the Slovenes had already done when they walked out of the Yugoslav communist party congress last month. The walkout marked the end of the Yugoslav federal party, which existed as an alliance of six republican and two regional parties sharing a joint Central Committee whose decisions were binding for all.

From now on the Slovene communists plan to act as an independent organization and face the elections in April with a democratic programme under the slogan "Europe now".

longer regard themselves as communists, the party will retain the name but only the initials will be used temporarily until the elections due in April, in which some 14 opposition parties will be competing for votes.

The Slovenes walked out from the congress and precipitated the break-up of the Yugoslav communist party after being voted down on demands for human rights, greater autonomy and closer links with the European community.

The move leaves the Yugoslav communist party in a state of disarray. Already the mood in the Croatian communist party is for a social

democratic option. Its leader, Mr Ivica Racan, predicted that the party in Croatia might split into two parties, one social democratic in the Western tradition, and the other conservative communist in the tradition of the Bolsheviks. Pressure to follow the Slovene example is now mounting in Croatia.

One of the main issues provoking the rift was over Kosovo. The Slovene delegation clashed with the Serbians when the Slovenes continued to criticize Serbian policy in the region, especially on violation of human rights and police intimidation.

Slovenia and Croatia have been accused of inciting Albanian protests and Serbian demonstrators, and officials have accused the two republic's leaders of "high treason".

Albanian opposition groups in Kosovo, where small-scale protests have continued for the 12th consecutive day, have accused the Yugoslav authorities of conducting state terrorism against the Albanian population and have called on the federal presidency and the Government to initiate round-table talks in search of a political solution.

Already at least 29 lives have been lost and several hundred people have been wounded during the unrest. Albanian opposition groups which have compiled eyewitness evidence implicating the police in acts of reprisal, Mr Veton Surroi, spokesman for the groups, said that 90 per cent of the victims were shot in the head and he called for urgent measures to avoid more bloodshed.

Throughout the region Albanians are handing back their communist party cards and joining the alternative opposition groups.

The Serbian communist leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, has so far excluded all suggestions to bring the Albanian alternative opposition groups into the talks, while the Serbian media continue to accuse the Albanians of being separatists.

New Bulgarian leader

Sofia (AFP) — The Bulgarian Parliament elected Mr Andrei Lukanov, left, a Communist reformist, as the new Prime Minister at the weekend, but opposition groups promptly rejected his offer to join a coalition government and said that they were forming a shadow cabinet.



Mr Lukanov, aged 51, was elected after the previous Government, under Mr Georgi Atanasov, aged 56, resigned on Thursday amid opposition charges that it was failing to introduce reforms quickly enough.

Aids are of a harsh

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German Baker to

From Martin... Mr James Baker... Secretary of State... really going to Moscow... week to discuss arms... He is still going... control has been... the top of the agenda... much more pressing... German reunification... In meetings with... Gorbachev and Mr... Slovenian, the Soviet... says Minister, Mr Baker... EC foreign... are expected to... some East European... to guarantee free... and the Soviet Union... EC money and... programs...

signify capture... which the superpowers... process that is rapidly... an... and... East-West confrontation... He may support the... of the 55-state... Conference for Security... to try to produce... acceptable to NATO... and the Soviet Union... East German Prime Minister... was abandoned by... Gorbachev and Mr... provided a... The United States... German reunification... to NATO. Here... German Chancellor... to West Germany... to tell Mr Baker of his...

هكذا من الأصل

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Aids children are legacy of a tyrant's harsh neglect

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Tests just completed by a team of French doctors have confirmed disturbing statistics, covered up by the late Nicolae Ceausescu, which show that Romania is suffering from an Aids epidemic among young children and is in urgent need of outside assistance to monitor and control it.

Launching an appeal for assistance from the European Community, Dr Jean Gabriel Babon, from the Paris-based Médecins du Monde, said that blood tests conducted by the French team supported findings in a banned report by the Bucharest Institute of Virology showing that 167 — or almost one in five — of 837 children from various hospitals were HIV-positive.

Romanian doctors were ordered not to publicize the findings, originally made last June, and were instructed to relay false information to the World Health Organization. As a result, nothing was done until the December revolution to begin coping with the epidemic, caused mainly by contaminated blood and re-used syringes.

The doctors have now re-

● Ceausescu stopped measures being taken to test blood products ... We were told that if we spoke out we would die ●

quested the organization to launch a special programme for paediatric Aids in Romania, including the provision of better research and diagnostic equipment.

The banned report, which Ceausescu refused to acknowledge as accurate, (he claimed that Aids was a disease restricted to capitalist countries) showed that children from Romania's overcrowded orphanages were affected, and that in one hospital in Constanta 91 out of 127 children tested were HIV-positive.

"This is the direct result of the dictator's cruelty. He prevented measures being taken to test blood products and his policies caused the malnutrition which was the reason many of these children had blood transfusions in the first place," said Dr George Jipa as he took us on a harrowing tour of the main children's Aids unit in Bucharest.

As of yesterday it was caring for 70 babies and children, 12 with full-blown Aids, in shocking conditions of basic hygiene.

Although some sufferers are

washed up to 15 times a day, the stench in the packed wards is overpowering as many of the children are suffering from chronic bowel disorders. One we saw, who had been in the ward since last October, was not expected to live for more than 24 hours and others are likely to die before the end of the month.

At one stage, Dr Jipa, director of the Victor Babes Infectious Diseases Hospital, broke down as he told how staff were attempting to cope without proper drugs and were previously prevented from taking action which might have reduced the spread of the disease. "We were told that if we spoke out we would die. The Securitate was everywhere, even here in this hospital," he added.

A year-old boy in the latter stages of the disease, Andrei Margoia, had the wizened features of an old man and very little flesh left on his body. Dr Jipa said that his staff could not help such children as there were no supplies of the drug AZT.

In the ward of those closest to death, skeletal faces stared up from the regulation white cots and their limbs were frequently as thin as sticks. Often the bed linen was filthy despite attempts to maintain decent conditions in the face of power shortages. Most of the children lay screaming at the tops of their voices.

The doctor explained that medical resources were so lacking because "the tyrant spent more on feeding his dogs than he did on these children. He just did not want to know about them".

In one tiny ward of three beds, which were almost on top of each other, lay three women whose children had been tested positive but who were awaiting their own checks, which had all so far proved negative. The room was filled with the coughs of the children, two of whom were suffering chronic bronchial pneumonia. A mother, aged 23, from the Danubian town of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, whose son had terrible lesions around his mouth said: "They gave him blood because we could not afford the proper food, and now I realize that it will kill him."

The high incidence of the Aids virus in children has thrown a question mark over attempts to arrange the adoption of some of the thousands of Romanian orphans created by Ceausescu's attempts to boost the workforce by fining infertility and banning abortion. According to foreign medical experts, checks will be necessary for more than 100 orphans already flown abroad since the revolution.

Victim of a raging epidemic



Aids anguish: A nurse, wearing protective clothing, holds a Romanian baby Georgescu Geln, who has an estimated three months to live. Contaminated blood infected many children.

Resignation deals fresh blow to Romanian rulers

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The fragile provisional Government in Romania suffered a fresh political blow yesterday when Professor Silviu Brucan, its leading ideologist and best known international face, resigned.

The academic and former senior member of the old Communist Party, aged 73, was the second senior figure to quit the executive of the six-week-old National Salvation Front in less than a fortnight.

Earlier, Mr Dumitru Mazilu, the country's First Vice-President, stood down from the ad hoc group alleging that the interim administration was still employing the Stalinist methods of Ceausescu.

A significant factor in the timing of the resignation was what the professor claimed was a distorted interview published in Britain's *The Independent* newspaper. He claimed that it misquoted his views about the alleged superiority of the intellectual elite over the working-class majority in Romania.

Despite his protests, the article was widely translated and stuck up on walls by those who opposed his views.

Professor Brucan, a former ambassador to the US and the

United Nations, was the most controversial member of the interim administration. He was the frequent target of student demonstrators who claimed he was an old-style Communist and opposed to a multi-party democracy.

His official title was president of the foreign policy commission of the Front and he frequently met leading foreign visitors, including Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

His position of power was one reason why some Western Governments have been hesitant in giving full support to the post-revolutionary regime. "Brucan was the strongman who was reluctant to abandon old methods. His departure will improve the Front's international image," one European envoy said.

In his resignation statement, released by the official Rompres news agency, the professor said that his mission had been fulfilled. He also attacked public apathy and Romania's political arena, now consisting of 30 registered parties, which he said was dominated by "personal ambition, careerism and political flunkeyism".

The professor, who is a

former editor of the main and now defunct Communist daily *Scinteia* (The Spark), which later became a leading opponent of the Ceausescu regime, said that he would return to writing books.

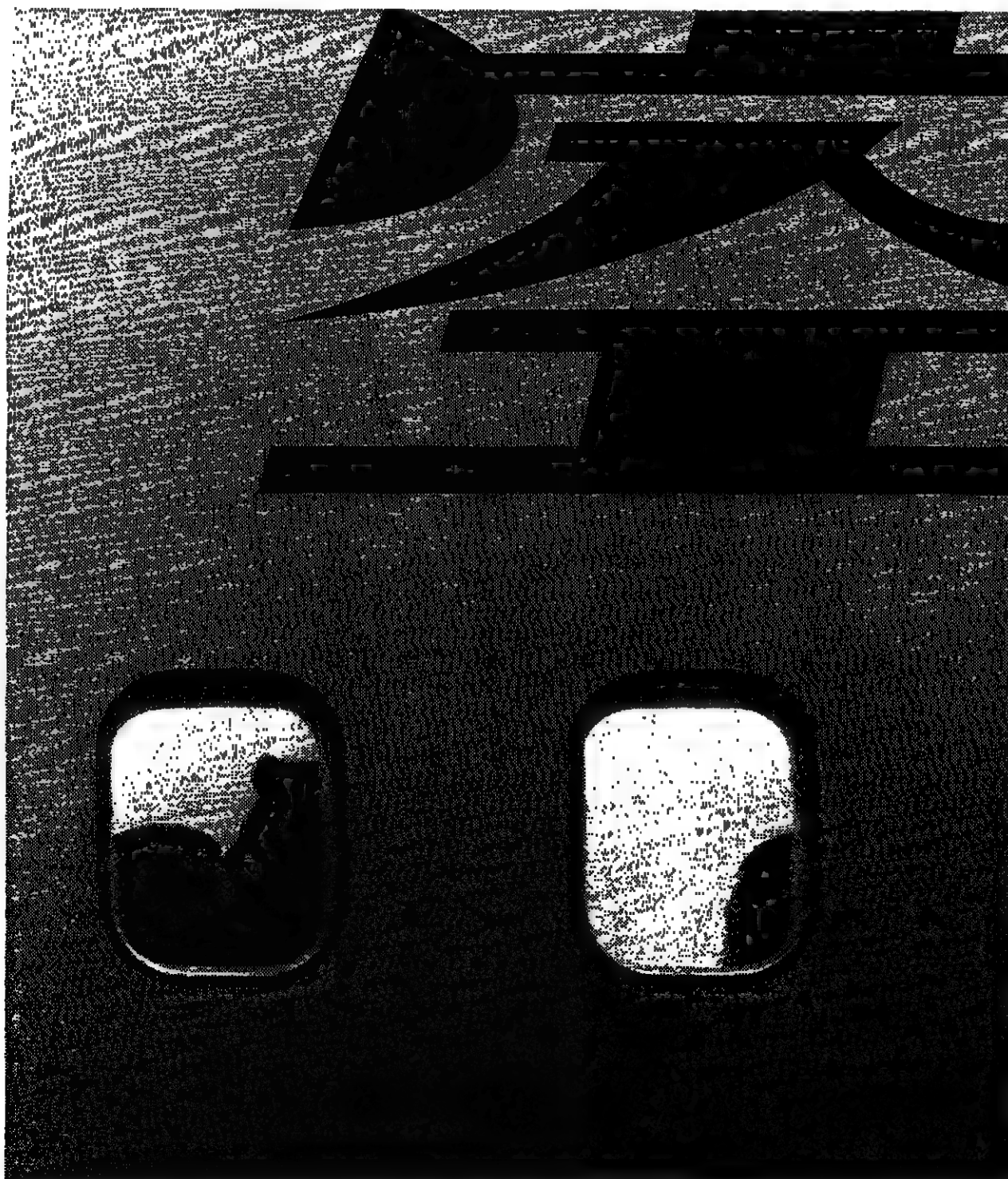
His exit was a further sign of the interim Government's lack of identity and the deep personal divisions within the Front's 145-member Council. Another of the country's best-known international figures, Mrs Doina Cornea has also resigned.

Professor Brucan's resignation came only days before the Front is due to relinquish much of its grip on power by sharing legislative control with representatives of the other 29 parties in a revamped legislative body, the Provisional Council for National Unity.

The Front will concentrate on preparing its campaign for the May general election in which Professor Brucan had been expected to play a key organizing role.

Professor Brucan complained that the campaign for the May general election had already begun and was being conducted in an atmosphere of "personal recrimination and character assassination".

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LONDON (THU, SAT.)	NH202 17:00	(FRI, SUN.)	13:50 TOKYO
TOKYO (NRT) — LONDON (LHR)		LONDON (LHR) — TOKYO (NRT)	
TOKYO (MON.)	NH203 18:45	(MON.)	16:55 LONDON
TOKYO (TUE, THU, SAT.)	NH201 11:20	(TUE, THU, SAT.)	15:10 LONDON

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German unity tops Baker talks agenda

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was originally going to Moscow this week to discuss arms control. He is still going, but arms control has been supplanted at the top of the agenda by a much more pressing issue — German reunification.

In meetings with President Gorbachev and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Baker will discuss the idea of a summit of the 35-nation Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe this autumn to try to produce a framework for reunification acceptable to NATO nations and the Soviet Union.

Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, last week abandoned his opposition to reunification, as did Mr Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze, provided a united Germany was militarily neutral. The United States has endorsed reunification, provided Germany remains committed to NATO. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, flew to Washington on Friday to tell Mr Baker of his idea for

a united Germany in which the eastern sector remains neutral.

Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze will also draw up plans for this June's US summit between Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev, seeking particularly to resolve disputes on technical matters which are standing in the way of a strategic arms reduction treaty which the two leaders want to sign before the end of the year.

The foreign ministers will discuss Mr Bush's proposal to reduce superpower forces in Central and Eastern Europe to 195,000 a side. So far there has been no Soviet response, but Mr Gorbachev may object to the suggestion that the United States be allowed to keep an additional 30,000 forces in Britain, Italy, Turkey and Greece.

On Saturday Mr Baker will make an unprecedented appearance before the 44-member International Affairs Committee of the Supreme Soviet, answering questions on American foreign policy.

● **BONN:** NATO needs to determine new strategies, structures and tasks because of the changes in Eastern Europe, Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, told a weekend seminar of international specialists in Munich (Ian Murray writes).

The conference also looked forward to a future in which Europe played a bigger role in world affairs.

Herr Stoltenberg said that, while there was no question of a united Germany leaving NATO, it was time the alliance reviewed the principle of first use of nuclear weapons and the idea of forward defence.

SPECTRUM 2

Published for the first time in Britain, the intimate and moving correspondence of the world's most famous prisoner

The Nelson Mandela letters

The following letters were sent by Nelson Mandela to members of his family during more than 20 years of his imprisonment. Sometimes touching, sometimes stern, always caring, they show the courage of a man sustained through his ordeal by a deep family love. They are extracted from Fatima Meer's book *Higher Than Hope*, Mandela's official biography, and are published in a British newspaper for the first time.

In 1944, Mandela married Evelyn, a nurse and cousin of Walter Sisulu. They had two sons, Madiba Thembekele (Thembi) and Makgatho, and a daughter, Makaziwe (Maki). Another daughter died at nine months.

The marriage broke down in 1956, and in 1958 Mandela married Winnie Madakizela. Their elder daughter, Zenani (Zeni), was born in 1959 and Zindziwa (Zindzi) in 1960. Mandela was arrested in 1962 and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964.

Of his first family, Thembi was killed in a car crash in 1969. Makaziwe won a Fulbright Scholarship and is living with her second husband and three children in Massachusetts.

Zeni married Prince Thumbumuzi of the Swazi royal family in 1977. They have three children and are both studying in the United States. Zindzi has remained with her mother and is very close to her.



Family waits: Winnie Mandela with daughter Zindzi in June 1977. In the early years of imprisonment, Nelson received only one visit a year, and letters were rationed and censored. Zindzi has remained with Winnie

1975

September 1
Winnie, I've plans, wishes and hopes. I dream and build castles. But one has to be realistic. We're mere individuals in a society run by powerful institutions with its conventions, norms, morals, ideals and attitudes.

1976

April 14
Winnie, My dreams tell me the same story and keep on reminding me that I can't break away from the spell in which I was caught 22 years ago. The other night both Zeni and Zindzi dragged me to a second-hand shop in Ekof Street between Commissioner and Main Street to get some household furniture that we badly needed.

April 15

Winnie, Dear Girl! At last you're back at UNISA (University of South Africa). What are your subjects and do you remember you were at the same varsity when we met 18 years ago? I hope you'll enjoy the course. But remember that I expect you to live up to the high standard I know you're capable of. But it really shook me to learn that in the evenings you drive to the public library. How can you take such a risk? Have you forgotten that you live in Soweto, not in the centre of town where you'd be safe at night. For the last decade you have been the subject of cowardly attempts on your life in which they tried to drag you out of the house. Your life and that of the children is more important than any educational certificate.

October 20

Zindzi, By the way, has Mum ever told you about Nolutha, the other lady in my cell from the Andaman Islands. She keeps you, Zeni, Ndindi and Nandi, Mandela, Maki and Mum company. It's one matter over which Mum's comments are surprisingly economic. She regards the pigny beauty as some sort of rival and hardly suspects that I took her picture out of the *National Geographic*. I heartily laugh when I read Mum's

letters, and suppress my laughter when I talk to her face to face and notice her own struggle to hide her anger. I may have to send the picture to Zeni on my return, because I know quite well that our old nannie (aunt) will be waiting at the gate with chopper and block.

October 26

Winnie, I have been fairly successful in putting on a mask behind which I have pined for the family, alone, never rushing for the post when it comes until somebody calls out my name. I also never linger after visits although sometimes the urge to do so becomes quite terrible. I am struggling to suppress my emotions as I write this letter.

I have received only one letter since you were detained, that one dated 22 August. I do not know anything about family affairs, such as payment of rent, telephone bills, care of children and their expenses, whether you will get a job when released. As long as I don't hear from you, I will remain worried and dry like a desert.

Letters from you and the family are like the arrival of summer rains and spring that liven my life and make it enjoyable.

Whenever I write you, I feel that inside physical warmth that makes me forget all my problems. I become full of love.

1977

June 26
Winnie, Our daughters raised in hardship are grown women today. The first born has her own house and is raising her family.

We couldn't fulfil our wishes as we had planned, to have a baby boy. I had hoped to build you a refuge, no matter how small, so that we would have a place for rest and sustenance before the arrival of the sad, dry days. I fell down and couldn't do these things. I am as one building castles in the air.

September 4

Zindzi, About a month before Mum and I got married, she came with friends to fetch me from the office and found me waiting

for the secretary of a foreign statesman with whom I'd an appointment. Like Mum, she was shattering beautiful and about the same age and although they had not met, Mum was at once surprisingly hostile. Then I was in top physical condition and going to the gym regularly. In spite of all that, and in the presence of on-lookers, she caught me by the scruff of the neck and dragged me out. I never saw that lady again.

On another occasion when Zeni was still suckling, we were having supper when a comrade came and asked me to drive one of Mum's lady friends to what was then Sophiatown. The Ntuyana at once retired to the bedroom, literally shaking with anger. I kissed and rubbed her gently between the shoulders and she cooled down. I'm quite ashamed to say it, darling, but I must tell you that, in spite of the raw deal she gave me those days, Mum soon settled down. Today we're a high-souled and tolerant shepherds who has made a man of me.

I am happy, darling, that you're around to look after Mum. It was a real relief to see her emerge clean, erect and strong from all the problems she has had. That was due mainly to your earnest love and inspiration. At 43, Mum is no longer young. At that age the average woman usually feels depressed when she sees her hair turning white and ugly wrinkles distorting her once pretty face. Children grow and become independent of her and it is easy for her to think that she's neglected by those who were once deeply attached to her. I'm very grateful to you for all that you're doing for her.

Your disappointment with my brief letters is quite reasonable because it coincides with my own feelings when I get a stinky note, or nothing at all, from those I much love.

October 30

Zeni, I got the three pictures you sent via Mum even though I become terribly homesick when I see you look well and it pleases me very much to see you full of smiles, to know you are with close family friends. Zazi's picture at once reminded me of you shortly after your Mum returned from Basogwanath maternity ward in 1959. You'd be fast asleep even as she bathed, dried, smeared you with olive oil, turned your skin white with Johnson's baby powder and stuffed your little belly with shark oil. It's family photos, letters and family visits that keep on reminding me of the happy days when we were together, that makes life sweet and that fills the heart with hope. Zindzi tells

me that Zazi (Zeni's daughter) visited Waterford without your permission. The students must have had real fun.

Although Mum tells me you have been writing regularly I have received no letters at all from you since April and nothing whatsoever, absolutely nothing, can make up for the emptiness within me caused by my longing for you and your letters. I am confident I will see you soon, but the months that have passed since we last met seem like a lifetime. The only thing that comforts me is Mum's reports that she is in touch with you even if by telephone only. I wonder just how you spend your free time, what you are reading, and whether you find time for physical exercises. Whatever you do during, please do not neglect your health. Both Mum and Dad are natural heavyweights, a characteristic which has both its advantages and disadvantages. A tall person can be quite impressive if he/she has an athletic figure and be repulsive if burdened by too much weight.

Zindzi: My Darling, 23

December! How do you celebrate your 17th birthday so far away from home and from where you have spent 16 years of your life, from relatives and friends, from those who love you and would have brought you beautiful presents and even invited you into their homes or taken you out. How does poor Mum show her love to our last-born in a strange place where she has no income, where she faces numerous problems? For the first time in your life, 23 December will find you without your beloved sister Zeni, and far away from your brother Makgatho, from Rennie and Manda. In such circumstances it is at all correct to talk of a birthday.

1978

March 5
Zindzi, On some days the weather on the island is quite beautiful, in fact beyond words, as Aunt Fatima would put it. Early one morning, I looked out through the window and the eye could see eastwards as far as the distant horizon. The power of imagination created the illusion that my vision went much further than the naked eye could actually see. I could survey vast regions behind the long mountain ranges where I have never been. Later, I walked out into the courtyard and the few living things there, the seagulls, wags, the plants, small trees and even grass blades were gay and full of smiles. Everything was caught up in the beauty of the

day. I looked into the vast dome of blue emptiness that stretched out above me in all directions and the illusions were still there, the size and speed and what information they were sending to mother earth.

Zindzi, I badly miss you and hope to see you this month. I've become so selfish, that I find it quite difficult to suppress the temptation of arranging for you to do your first degree in Cape Town when I'd see you monthly. Life would have been ideal, in spite of everything, if I could put you, Zazi, Zeni and Mum into my shirt pocket so that you could press against my heart. Perhaps the longing that has been eating me up for years would lessen considerably and I might even feel younger. Also I could peep into that pocket when hard times knocked at my door. The hope that I will see you soon, that I will get a nice letter from you, that perhaps I will be with you for days, weeks and months on end fills my life and expectation and optimism. Meantime, lots and lots of love and a million kisses to you, Mum, Zeni and Zazi. Affectionately, Tata.

June 5

Maki, My Darling, Mum Winnie told me about her visit to you in Port St Johns last November, but as she does not want to upset me (she hardly gives me family news that might worry me), she told me that you would write to me on an important domestic matter. I suspected that your marriage was not going smoothly. I must confess that ever since you told me about your problems with Camagu (her husband) I feared that this is how it would finally end up. But you must be realistic and act at once. If you are convinced that your marriage is on the rocks and that there is no hope of saving it, you must sue for di-

vorice without delay and forget all about Camagu. Under no circumstances must you neglect this and keep a marriage that has failed. You are still young with a bright future, if from now on you plan carefully and are really determined to go forward. This is not the time to worry yourself about your failure to take our advice on continuing your education by going to varsity. Many children have made that mistake before. What is important is what you can do from now on.

I was also happy to know that you work as an invoice clerk. Although I don't know what your income is, at least you have something to keep you going. I was even more happy to hear you say that you have now learnt that life without a profession is futile. I also note that you are determined to do nursing on the simple ground that, in that way, you can both study and earn a bit of cash. In the circumstances your decision is quite reasonable. In the end you will have achieved something and the children won't be stranded.

July 10

Zindzi, I have forgotten all the history I ever knew and my memory of the Stuart and Tudor periods is very hazy. All that now stands out in my mind is the film *Mary Queen of Scots* in which Vanessa Redgrave played the role of Queen Elizabeth. That period is not only important for England but for the entire world, since it marks the end of feudalism and the beginning of the contemporary era of capitalism.

I don't know what text book you are using on the Cold War and I should certainly like to be told. But the Cold War is the product of two conflicting systems of society - socialism and capitalism - which are competing today in practically every field. But with more contact between the two systems

throughout the world and in which they are forced to handle common problems jointly, to co-operate in the space field and the love of peace by the people of the world, the Cold War is now melting away.

August 1

Zeni, You have not acknowledged receipt of your birthday letter card. Few children find it easy to write to parents and failure to do so on their part is not anything so serious. But the habit of attending to small things and of appreciating small courtesies is one of the important marks of a good person.

August 8

Maki, I was disappointed to note that you have no higher ambition than to be a nurse. I suggest that you abandon your intention to take nursing and immediately apply for admission to Fort Hare (University). Mum Winnie will try and arrange for payment of your fees and your clothing and perhaps even for a small allowance whilst you are studying, and your mum can help you with regard to the payments for the divorce case. As you know Mum Winnie lost her job in Johannesburg when she was sent to the Orange Free State. She is herself struggling. But she loves you and I am sure she will try her best. It is not at all easy, darling, to discuss such confidential problems through letters and I hope you can see me soon.

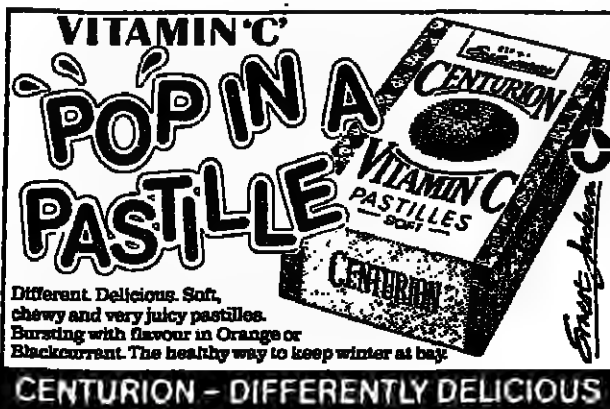
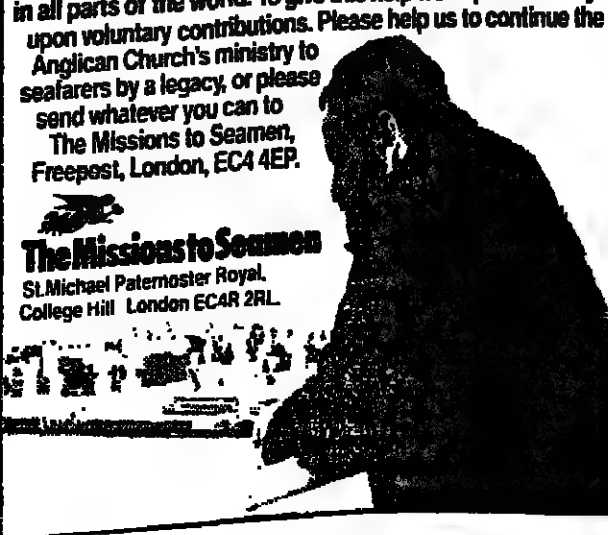
November 6

Maki, I have told you before, I repeat it now, that we are able to arrange for you to go to university and to get an allowance while working. These days a university education is essential even if your ambition is to become a mere nurse. More ambitious girls first take a degree

Continued on page 18

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help - spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world. To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to The Missions to Seamen, Freeport, London, EC4A 4EP.



Pick of the Week



Sir Edward Poynter, P.R.A.: Sketch for *Atlantis*, oil on canvas. Signed and dated 1875, 8 7/8 x 25 1/4 in. (detail)

CHRISTIE'S

THIS IMPORTANT SKETCH relates to Sir Edward Poynter's decorative scheme for the Billiard Room at Wortley Hall near Sheffield. Commissioned in 1871 by the Earl of Wharfedale, the series of four mythological paintings was one of the artist's most important mural schemes, but sadly was destroyed during the Second World War. The finished version of *Atlantis* was hailed as the most outstanding picture of the year when exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1876. The sketch is included in the sale of British Paintings of the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries at Christie's, King Street on Friday, 9 February at 10.30 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone (01) 839 9060.

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DROPPING THE PILOT

Following yesterday's almost unprecedented demonstrations in Moscow the Soviet Union seems about to enter another period of profound change, more fundamental than any it has so far undergone. Today the Central Committee at its plenum will debate a series of proposals which could end the party's monopoly of power.

The one constant throughout this political upheaval is likely to be Mr Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, who next month celebrates five years of supremacy at the Kremlin. During that time, he has accumulated a plenitude of powers unequalled by any Soviet leader since Stalin, and a popularity in the West which even Khrushchev never attained. Now it is his hand which is thought to lie behind the radical proposals before the plenum.

Whispering about his fall has been endemic almost from the first. It has reached a crescendo of speculation over the past few weeks, since the first major military operation to be initiated by Mr Gorbachev began in Azerbaijan.

Mr Gorbachev's strength inside the Party will certainly be tested at the Nowcov meeting today. But it would be very surprising if a serious challenge to his authority were mounted by the authoritarian wing of the Party, whose figurehead is the senior Politburo member Mr Ligachev. His prestige has been damaged by the collapse of communism in central Europe; he was the only leading Soviet politician to try to prop up Herr Erich Honecker, with his much-publicized visit to East Berlin last September.

It is, of course, possible that the prospect of German reunification could be used by the Ligachev faction to argue that Mr Gorbachev, too, should have tried harder to save the satellites. But the reformist wing of the Party can reply persuasively that the Honeckers were doomed anyway, and that Ceausescu's violent end proves that Mr Gorbachev's support for peaceful change is the only practical course.

Another typical Gorbachev play has been his attempt to regain the initiative in Germany by using his ally, Herr Modrow, to appeal to the West German Social Democrats to accept neutrality in return for the full union of the two states. It may not succeed. None the less it will probably have a profound influence on

German domestic politics. Orthodox communists in the Soviet Politburo quite simply lack creative ideas, in a situation when improvisation is the only political skill that matters. The nearest they have come to doing so was in Leningrad, where the local party leadership under Mr Gidaspov has organized anti-Gorbachev rallies. But since Mr Gorbachev showed his teeth in Azerbaijan, it will have become harder to portray him as the Jimmy Carter of Soviet politics. Indeed, the skilful exploitation of popular fear of the old guard is an important element of the President's survival technique.

Perhaps more serious is the danger to Mr Gorbachev from radical communists like Mr Yeltsin, or even from emerging forces outside the Party itself. Such voices have negligible support within the Party leadership, but at present it is impossible to assess their potential public support in the Soviet heartlands: the Russian and Ukrainian republics. It is already clear that the Soviet periphery is turning to the Popular Fronts as a preferable vehicle for political expression. The rapidity with which the replacement of the Party throughout the Soviet Union by such nationalist organizations may proceed will depend on how far Mr Gorbachev is ready to sacrifice communism itself in order to hold on to power.

For this there has hitherto been such a paucity of evidence that many experts have understandably preferred to emphasize the Soviet leader's consistent loyalty to the fundamental tenets of Marxism-Leninism. Today's debate might provide a different answer.

Mr Gorbachev might be prepared to distinguish between the Marxist and Leninist elements in existing Soviet ideology. He did, after all, initially seek to return to Lenin's ideas, such as the New Economic Policy. But unlike Marx's thought, Lenin's is too flimsy to support the weight of a system which has outlived its sense of purpose.

This means that Mr Gorbachev has no choice but to start from scratch. His nationalities policy, which may end by undoing much of Lenin's bloody work during the years after the October Revolution, was the first sign that he is moving into uncharted territory. He now seems prepared to go much further still, outflanking his political opponents on the way.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LORD CHILVER

A powerful ally has come to the support of those teachers who feel deep concern about the state of their profession and the damage which poor morale and low public esteem are causing state schools. It comes from Lord Chilver, a distinguished mathematician whose detailed report on teachers' pay has been accepted by the Government. His interim advisory committee has offered the first real chance of injecting a new vitality into teaching by giving local authorities and schools the freedom to build up the quality of their staff.

A sound and improved national pay scale will provide a basis for individual arrangements to be made. Schools will be able to reward talented teachers and in areas facing particular problems, pay more to recruit and keep staff. Standards will rise and teachers will be given a chance to regain their proper place in society as respected professionals.

To argue, as some of the unions appear to be doing, that Lord Chilver's committee has failed to appreciate the mounting problem of poor morale and the resultant loss of too many teachers, is to misread the report. It says in plain terms that while pay is not the only cause of the malaise, it is the most important; that more teachers are taking second jobs to make ends meet; and that the £600m which the Government originally allowed for pay in 1990-91 is inadequate.

It also accepts that the drop-out rate during and immediately after teacher training is disturbingly high. Meanwhile, at the other end of the profession, people of high quality must be attracted to the role of head teacher. Too many are now taking early retirement.

NEW DEAL FOR KOSOVO?

A political resolution to the crisis in Kosovo, Yugoslavia's poorest province, is at last being sought by the federal government. But this is after years of repressive policies, culminating in the decision last year to deprive the province of its autonomous status and subject it to Serbian control. After deploying the army last Wednesday to hold the ring, the State President, Mr Janes Drnovsek, flew to Pristina last Friday to put forward "new ideas".

They will need to be radical. Serbian irredentism has accentuated the distrust between Yugoslavia's ethnic groups - as was demonstrated by yesterday's decision by the Slovenian communist party to break away from the ruling League of Communists. In Kosovo it will not be enough just to turn back the clock. Since last March, when a state of emergency was imposed, all trust between the two ethnic communities has been destroyed.

Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian communist party leader, purged the Kosovo party leadership, its universities and schools. Scores were arrested, hundreds lost their jobs and several Albanian leaders have recently been subjected to show trials on charges of "counter-revolutionary activities".

In Serbia itself, he used the media to depict the Albanians as criminals - out to terrorize the Serbian minority and, ultimately, to secede from Yugoslavia and unite with its historical enemy, Albania. The war of words transformed Serbo-Albanian tensions in Kosovo into a national issue.

The newly-formed independent Kosovar political groups with whom dialogue is being opened will no longer be satisfied with an end to the state of emergency within the Serbian their autonomous status within the Serbian republic. Since January 23, when Albanians took to the streets, their leaders' demands have included the right to form political parties and hold free elections.

Lord Chilver's message could not be clearer. The Government must pay the teachers more if it is to prevent a haemorrhage of talented and experienced staff. For the unions to react aggressively, even to the point of threatening industrial action, is self-defeating.

By striking they would only antagonize parents - and perhaps drive the moderates away from union membership. The militants are not truly representative of the 400,000 teachers in England and Wales, most of whom care passionately about their work and the children in their charge. That commitment has been acknowledged by Lord Chilver.

This very commitment has confronted the Government with considerable difficulty in balancing all the public sector pay awards with the needs of its economic policy. If he had been the only one making a case, Mr John MacGregor might have been able to swing the Cabinet into agreeing the total award for this April. As it is, the considerable increases are to be staged.

Teachers may be tempted to see this as further evidence of their low place in the Government's priorities. They should not. Mr MacGregor's determination to improve the status of teachers should not be doubted. He will have the opportunity to prove it when he has to decide who will foot the extra bill. Next year, when the full £133 million has to be met, the Government will almost certainly have to find extra resources.

But it is imperative that teachers be re-established in public esteem. Lord Chilver has started the process, providing a sensible base for others to build upon.

The federal Prime Minister, Mr Ante Markovic, has incentives to meet these demands beyond the need to restore civil peace. Since taking office last March, he has sought to separate government and party, and to increase the power of the federal government vis-à-vis Yugoslavia's six republics. On January 1, he launched an ambitious programme to reform the economy, in which inflation is running at an alarming rate of nearly 2000 per cent.

Its success depends in large part on the implementation of new laws reforming the banking system and increasing the federal government's ability to control the money supply, to levy taxes, and to transform Yugoslavia's system of "worker self-management". But these laws bring him into direct conflict with the huge party bureaucracies in each republic, threatening their entrenched networks of patronage.

Political reforms would strengthen Mr Markovic's hand against the republican party bosses: economic recovery may be impossible without them. In Yugoslavia, with its six official languages and 20 nationalities, multi-party democracy carries risks: parties will form, at least initially, on republican not national bases. But it is ultimately the best way to defuse nationalism.

The Albanian majority's demands for republican status and political freedoms should be met: the alternative is escalating violence. Moreover, because the province has become the symbol of Serbian nationalism, Albanian demands for self-government have attracted considerable support from Croatia - and from Slovenia. Kosovo has not only become a test of strength between Mr Milosevic and Mr Markovic; his ability to resolve the crisis will be a test of Mr Markovic's ability to hold Yugoslavia together.

Disparities in sentencing

From the Director of the National Association of Probation Officers' report on sentencing disparities between crown courts (details, January 23) and Lord Justice Glidewell's proposal for a judges' sentencing forum (report, January 24) have highlighted an important gap in appellate guidance to sentencers.

As a general rule the more frequent the type of case, the less relevant guidance is likely to exist. In recent years the Court of Appeal has produced a plethora of guideline judgments on sentencing for serious violent and sexual offences, robbery, and drug trafficking.

Yet judgments containing guidance on less serious assaults, thefts, burglary and criminal damage are much harder to find. Moreover, as the sentence was probably unusually high in the first place, such judgments are often of little use in the average case. There is, therefore, a powerful argument for a Sentencing Council, which would develop detailed guidance, to be issued as practice directions, on sentencing in every-day criminal cases.

Some proponents of a Sentencing Council have suggested that its membership should include not only judges but also magistrates, a prison governor, a chief probation officer, and an academic penologist. This proposal has been criticised as involving an unacceptable encroachment on judicial discretion. However, the same objection could not be levelled if a Sentencing Council formed part of the Court of Appeal and its judicial members had a discretionary power to co-opt advisers from other disciplines.

Whatever the outcome of the Sentencing Council debate, an effective mechanism must be found to guide sentencers towards a more consistent and sparing use of prison.

Yours faithfully,
YVONNE STERN, Director,
National Association for the Care
and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
January 25.

Television quality

From Mr Simon Albury
Sir, Mr Mellor, the Minister of State at the Home Office, writes (January 31) that the Broadcasting Bill already gives the ITC (Independent Television Commission) power to consider whether substantial quality differences constitute "exceptional circumstances" enabling the ITC to override the highest financial bid in order to award the licence to an applicant offering a significantly higher quality of programme service.

The Campaign for Quality Television have been advised that the "exceptional circumstances" clause in the Bill, 17(1)(3) cannot operate in the way the minister suggests.

If the Government does not wish to see quality programming subordinated to cash to the Treasury then it should introduce an amendment providing an exception to "highest bidder wins" where, in the view of the ITC, a person offering a lower bid will provide a significantly higher quality of programme service to the viewer.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON ALBURY
(Campaign Director),
Campaign for Quality Television,
10 Stouley Place, NW1,
February 1.

Community charge

From Miss M. M. Threlfall
Sir, Today's letter re poll tax shows a basic misunderstanding. Community charge is exactly what it means - not a tax on the value of our property but a tax used for community purposes. We all use the roads, educational system etc., whether we live in a palace or a shack.

A family of four adults uses four times as much of the community benefits as I do and should therefore pay for them as individuals.

Yours faithfully,
MAUREEN THRELFALL,
Danson Orchard,
Whittingham Lane,
Grimsthorpe,
Preston, Lancashire,
January 27.

Politics of rubbish

From Mr John Bennett and Mr Stephen Currell

Sir, Tom Bower ("The politics of rubbish", Spectrum, January 22) states that under the Local Government Act 1988 the accumulation of a 30 per cent defect level "will trigger an automatic enquiry by the district auditor". The Act contains no such requirement. The issue of defects is a matter for the contract documentation and any default procedure which now exists will have been included by the council itself in the documentation with which its in-house labour force must comply.

Similarly, Mr Bower states that "under the Act, the contractor's performance must be monitored by the council and payments withheld if it fails to fulfil its obligations". Again, there is no such requirement imposed by the Act and it must again be a purely contractual matter which the council has chosen to introduce.

Although this may appear to be a legal nicety, it gives an unfortunate tenor to the feature by suggesting that local authorities, including Camden, are being

Losses and gains on weather front

From Mr L. A. W. Bowman
Sir, At a time when the weather is more than just morning small talk, it is worth considering the Government's attitude to the teaching of meteorology in State schools.

The GCSE in meteorology is being withdrawn as part of a rationalisation process by those in charge of secondary schools examinations. That small number of students who have taken this GCSE and its GCE O-level predecessor are able to appreciate the complexity of the science, unlike the majority of the population.

Sadly the development so far of the National Curriculum does not give the impression of improving the situation. The "atmosphere" is a half of one of the 16 attainment targets in science. However, those producing the geography curriculum are claiming the subject matter is theirs and Mr MacGregor is being asked to adjudicate.

Such confusion is typical of the undervaluing of meteorology by those who administer education in England and Wales.

If our young people are to grow into adults who are both economically and environmentally aware, then the weather must be taken seriously all the time - not just when we have a "hurricane".

Yours faithfully,
L. A. W. BOWMAN
(Head of Humanities),
William Parker School,
Parkstone Road,
Hastings, East Sussex,
January 29.

From Mr Edwin Barclay
Sir, As the consultant who supervised the raising of the trees at Field Place for Mr Prichard Jones (letter, January 29; report and photograph, February 1) I consider the reasons for success to be that the trees were raised rapidly to avoid damage to the roots and the deep, heavy clay soil retained moisture well.

About 30 per cent of the root stock, undamaged in the root ball, was able to maintain the reduced demands of the pollarded trees. Compost and a small amount of well rotted manure encouraged root growth.

Limes and many hardwoods respond to pollarding and tend to sprout and root relatively easily. Further pollarding may be considered later to increase stability.

The English oak is known as the

Museum charges

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, I was very surprised to read the letter from the Chairman of National Heritage (January 27) implying that the Imperial War Museum was not a great national archive. The department of documents has an enormous collection of film, photographs and sound recordings, and is among the most important resource centres for 20th-century history.

It also contains all my father's very extensive papers, which are thought to constitute one of the largest single military archives ever assembled concerning the achievements of one general.

The public galleries, splendid as they are, present only a small fraction of the collections which are held in reserve, and which are used by scholars from across the world.

Yours faithfully,
MONTGOMERY,
House of Lords,
January 30.

From Professor Malcolm Todd

Sir, It is sad to see an old friend (Dr Alan Borg of the Imperial War Museum, January 19), along with other directors of national museums, succumbing to the Zeitgeist and advocating admission charges as providing "a positive contribution to the museum economy".

Aside from the point (which most museum directors no longer seem to wish to discuss) that museums and their collections are an essential and inalienable part of national life, it is a dubious economic argument that the levels of visitors will remain buoyant after the novelty of new displays and "experiences" has worn thin.

But probably the most depressing feature of the correspondence on museum charges has been the total certainty claimed by some directors, with honourable exceptions, about what the public wants

"Sussex weed" and at Field Place oaks grow well. Perhaps the soil conditions enabled the damaged trees to survive here when they would not have coped elsewhere.

Since raising the trees at Field Place, I have done so on other estates or moved large trees to other locations.
Yours faithfully,
EDWIN BARCLAY,
Rotherbridge Cottage,
Petworth, Sussex,
February 2.

From Mr Andrew E. Dawson
Sir, Mr Ken Prichard Jones's experience of replanting his avenue of pollarded limes trees following the storm of October, 1987, is not a unique example. His replanting of oak trees is, however, noteworthy and commendable.

The founder of Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perthshire - the late Mr Harry Riley - had the wisdom and the courage to pollard and replant an avenue of lime trees bordering the magnificent school drive after they were blown down by a storm in the late 1920s. The headmaster proudly showed them to me and recounted the story on my arrival as a new boy in 1939.

These fine lime trees stand tall and proud today - a fitting memorial to a man of great initiative. Let others follow.
Yours sincerely,
ANDREW E. DAWSON,
The Manor House,
Tytherington,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire,
February 1.

From Lord Chelmer
Sir, The experience of Mr Prichard Jones in lifting trees successfully after the hurricane of 1987 recalls an unusual experience.

We were topping fallen trees before lifting them back into position. These trees mostly survived the recent gales.

But two of them, a willow and a poplar, planted in a copse in a slightly boggy ground, had a character of their own. After being topped each tree gave a quiet hiss, shivered and rose of its own accord until it landed with a thump in its old home. Both trees continue to flourish.

Yours faithfully,
CHELMER,
Peacocks,
Margaretting, Essex,
February 1.

and expects from its museums. That is more bureaucratic arrogance. Not only do they not know; they have not asked.
Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM TODD,
University of Exeter,
Department of History and Archaeology,
Queen's Building,
The Queen's Drive,
Exeter, Devon,
January 20.

From Mr P. R. Saunders

Sir, Mrs P. M. Miller's suggestion (January 20) that "local ratepayers be provided with free admission tickets for their own local museum" is valid where the local museum is funded from rates, but charitable trust museums, like Salisbury's, need revenue to survive and this may only be secured through charges.

However, I welcome the spirit of compromise which she advocated, and which so often seems to be lacking in the debate over museum charges.

With this in mind, Salisbury museum now charge once a year only for admission, each ticket acting as a season ticket for the remainder of the year. Thus local visitors, especially children, come to value their visits (the argument often espoused in favour of charges) and at the same time feel that their visits are free.

What in effect is a low-price season ticket also encourages some visitors eventually to join the membership of the museum for the additional privileges which that brings. This idea may commend itself to those museums looking both for the financial and moral support of the local community.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SAUNDERS (Curator),
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum,
The King's House,
65 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
January 23.

complain, and bitterly, about the mounting squalor of our historic streets. But the nagging thought occurs: perhaps these cries never reach our servants, civil or not, who clearly have a duty to remove rubbish from public places. Camden's environmental health officer and its councillors, obviously broken by the task of trying to run one of the most expensive and filthiest boroughs in the kingdom never actually clasp eyes on our complaints.

Once our enormous rates cheques have been extracted from their envelopes, could it be that our angry letters lie unread, tossed aside as so much junk, eventually adding to the piles of uncollected rubbish and rotting garbage littering our sadly broken paving?

The crisis of an impotent council positively demands that energetic people like Blundy, with new ideas and the expertise to match, should be employed to clear up the mess.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA GODLEE,
9 Meadowbank,
Primrose Hill, NW3,
January 25.

Of course Camden residents

Protection from cowboy workers

From the Director General of the Health and Safety Executive

Sir, I was puzzled to see the reference, in your leader column of January 31, to the case in which a self-employed electrician was charged with manslaughter, and in particular to the statement that the case "extended the criminal law into areas which most people had assumed were beyond its reach".

In fact the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 protects not only the health and safety of those at work, but also members of the public who might be affected by the way undertakings are conducted. We can, and do, prosecute employers and self-employed people who harm members of the public as a result of their work, and have already prosecuted in cases where faulty gas equipment has been installed in homes.

A tendency for manslaughter charges to be preferred for such serious cases is in fact presently establishing itself. Very recently, the Crown Prosecution Service, acting upon evidence we supplied, successfully prosecuted a director of a firm for manslaughter following a fatal injury at work; and a charge of corporate manslaughter has been brought in connection with the disaster at Zeebrugge, though the latter did not fall within the scope of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. RIMINGTON,
Director General,
Health & Safety Executive,
Baynards House,
1 Chepstow Place, W2,
February 2.

From the Director of the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association

Sir, Your otherwise helpful leading article (January 31) on builders with cowboy hats was inaccurate in its reference to the guarantee provided by the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association, in stating that the scheme does not cover errors by sub-contracted workers such as electricians.

The guarantee, which has operated successfully on a voluntary basis since 1969, would indeed extend to the electrical content of a central heating system (in domestic premises to a maximum capacity of 60kw), provided the electrical sub-contractor was appointed by and was answerable for his workmanship to a member of the HVCA.

A customer would be unwise to appoint the electrical contractor direct and it is unlikely, in view of the known legal and contractual risks, that a member of the HVCA would undertake to install the central heating on this basis.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HIGGS, Director,
Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association,
ESCA House, 34 Palace Court,
Bayswater, W2,
February 1.

Proving paternity

From Professor D. F. Roberts

Sir, While agreeing with Scrivener (The Law, January 30) that legal credibility of the valuable technique of DNA "fingerprinting" has received serious setbacks in some recent carelessly prepared court cases in the United States, he is in error in stating that traditional blood tests can disprove paternity in only 30 per cent of cases.

That figure was correct in the 1930s when very few blood group systems were known. In the last three routine paternity cases on which I reported using traditional methods the probabilities of exonerating a man falsely accused of paternity were 99.993 per cent, 99.78 per cent and 99.997 per cent.

Your individuality, Sir, is as clearly shown by combinations of your known genes as by combinations of your fragments of DNA.
Yours truly,
D. F. ROBERTS,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Human Genetics,
19 Claremont Place,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
January 31.

Legal language

From Mr J. C. Neville Wood

Sir, Mr Christopher Hart's strictures (January 29) on the wording of appeal documents for the House of Lords may do him much honour as a lawyer, but little credit as a historian. The ending "and your Petitioner will ever pray", is a truncation of the original formula, which concluded either "... for your good estate" or "... heartily to God for you". So it was a rather disarming expression of good will, and not of servility.
Yours faithfully,
J. C. NEVILLE WOOD,
12 Park Road,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
January 30.

Computer-speak

From Dr Ben Ross

Sir, In 1965 I bought a Japanese car. The service manual contained the memorable instruction: "If the brakes should fail, stop immediately and drive to the nearest garage."
Yours sincerely,
BEN ROSS,
38 Wykeham Way,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex,
January 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (01)782 5046.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was represented by Lady Aird at the Service of Thanksgiving for Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Bower which was held at the Church of St Peter, St Mary Bourne, this afternoon.

Birthdays today

Lord Braybrooke, 93; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 72; Lord Gibson, 74; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 48; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, former Master, Trinity College, Cambridge, 76; the Hon Douglas Hogg, MP, 45; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, 60; Wing Commander R.A.B. Leary, VC, 77; Prebendary Dewi Morgan, 74; Mr Justice Morritt, 52; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 70; Professor A.M. Neville, former principal and vice-chancellor, Dundee University, 67; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 44; the Very Rev Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 52; Mr M.K.O. Simpson-Osterley, diplomat, 58; Sir Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 65.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, will visit the new unit for the elderly in Victoria Hospital, Halesburg, at 9.30; Ardui House School, 11 East Montrose Street, Halesburg, at 10.35; and, at President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the Alteration to Detention Project, 1 Red Row, Ranton, Dumbarton, at 11.40. As Patron of SENSE, National Deaf Blind and Rubella Association, she will visit SENSE-in-Scotland, 168 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, at 2.20.

Lord Harding of Petherton

A stained glass window to the memory of Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton will be dedicated at a service in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, on Sunday, June 24, at 11.00.

Mrs Daniel Johnson

Mrs Daniel Johnson (Sarah Thompson) gave birth to a son, Tycho John Paul, on February 1.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant H.S. de Bretton-Gordon, JRTA, and Miss J.A. Wharton

The engagement is announced between Hamish, only son of Colonel and Mrs de Bretton-Gordon, of Hinton St Mary, Dorset, and Julia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A. Wharton, of Woburn, Bedfordshire.

Mr P.J. Campbell and Miss R.E. Webb

The engagement is announced between Patrick, only son of the late Mr M. Campbell and of Mrs Campbell, of St Albans, and Rosemary, daughter of the late Mr K.T. Webb and of Mrs Webb, of Milton Keynes, formerly of Pyrford.

Mr P.D. Clark and Miss A.J. Baylis

The engagement is announced between Paul David, son of Mr and Mrs D.L. Clark, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Amanda Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Baylis, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Sr F.L. Fernandez and Miss N. Colman

The engagement is announced between Sr Federico Lopez Fernandez, youngest son of Dona A. Fernandez and Rodriguez, and Nina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Colman, of Mojocarr, Almeria, Spain (previously of Southpore Hall, Norwich, Norfolk).

Mr G. Hamilton and Miss C.M. Gilmour

The engagement is announced between Gary, son of Mr Frank E. Hamilton and Mrs Marjorie Hamilton, of Balboa Island, California, USA, and Catherine Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Gilmour, of LaCanada, California, USA.

Mr M.H. Jones and Miss S. James

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs K. Jones, of Mickleover, Derbyshire, and Susan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. James, of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire.

Nature notes

The floods along the Severn are causing the great flocks of white-fronted geese to move about. They feed mainly on grass, and though they will sometimes take it in shallow water, they prefer to graze on waterlogged land. They walk slowly across the field, plucking the grass with their beaks, all facing the same way. At night they fly in long lines or V-shaped flocks out to the river or to large pools, where they sleep at the water's edge.

Widgeons also feed mainly on land, while teal up-end in the water. The teal, being small ducks, are sometimes prey to peregrine falcons, which hunt along the estuaries in winter. When they have made a full meal, a pair of widgeons will sit side by side on a grassy mound digesting it.

Elder bushes are coming into leaf, and long green catkins are swinging on the alder trees. In the low, bright sunshine, the trunks of plane trees are like lattice work of green and red, where the light shines on loose bark covered with lichen and the pale rufous underbark.

DJM

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR COLIN GOODMAN

On the frontiers of research in materials science

Professor Colin Goodman, a senior scientist at STC (Standard Telephones & Cables) Technology Ltd, who has died at the age of 62, made a considerable contribution to materials science over the last 35 years, and had done pioneering research into the development of the latest semiconductor and high frequency transistors.

He was deeply interested in materials and their behaviour from a wide variety of viewpoints, and his ability to consider the physics, chemistry and engineering aspects of materials gave him and his work great strength.

Driven by a fascination with the properties of materials, and what could be done to improve them, he had a particularly wide knowledge of the physics and chemistry of "materials for electronics" (semiconductors, metals, dielectrics, ceramics and glasses) and of technologies involved in their preparation. His wide range of interests included: the structure of glasses and extension of the models he developed to other amorphous solids; crystal growth; non-radiative recombination of carriers in semiconductors and new semiconductor.

Coupled with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge, he had an enthusiasm and an ability to communicate at all levels. He delighted in arguing constructively with people about their work.

He lectured widely on a variety of subjects, passing on his enthusiastic approach and knowledge to younger colleagues. For more than 20 years he organized technical colloquia to establish and maintain links between scientists of different specialties.

Colin Howard Ludlow Goodman was born at Hampstead on April 30, 1927. From Harrow he went to read chemistry at Christ Church, Oxford, where he did postgraduate research on the sintering of aluminium oxide, with W. Hume-Rothery in the Department of Metallurgy. He subsequently worked at the GEC Research Laboratories in Wembley.

While at GEC, Goodman made pioneering investigations on new semiconductor, crystal growth, ultra-pure materials preparations and developments on high frequency silicon transistors.

He was recruited as a chemist by Standard Telephones & Cables in October 1960 to work on compound semiconductor development and went on to set up a range of research projects on high technology materials for electronics applications. In the process he created a liaison role between academia and industry.

He received visiting professorships at Chelsea College of Science and Technology in 1970, at Warwick University in 1977 and at King's College, London in 1987. He was director of the SERC High Pressure Laboratory for studying the properties of materials under extreme pressure, the only SERC facility on an industrial site. He drew attention to the discovery of "high temperature" superconductivity and was instrumental in setting up the first UK conference on the subject.

He contributed many papers to conferences and learned journals, edited two books on crystal growth and was responsible for patents over a wide field, including lasers, solar cells and, most recently, a negative effective mass device.

Many government and scientific communities benefited from his participation. He had served on the editorial board and later as deputy editor for the *Journal of Physics Part D, Applied Physics*, and on the editorial boards of *Materials Research Bulletin*, *Semiconductor Science and Technology* (from its inception) and the *ICL Technical Journal*.

He represented the Institute of Physics on the Court of Cranfield Institute of Technology and STC with the European Physical Society. He was a Fellow of both the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Imbued with a wonder of nature, Goodman saw a commonality between matters of the physical world and of the spirit. His concern for his fellow man led him to use his skills to benefit several voluntary organizations and with the training of young people. He participated for 10 years in the management of the Leo Baeck College, the only European institution for training progressive rabbis, serving most recently as the Chairman.

He faced illness and surgery with his usual curiosity and pragmatism. Indeed, his last paper, on the behaviour of the materials within the deep earth, was written in his hospital bed.

He leaves a widow, Susan, two daughters and a son.

DURGA LAL

Leading talent in Indian dance

Durga Lal, one of the foremost Indian dancers of the new generation, died in Lucknow on February 1, aged 41, following a heart attack.

He practised the Kathak style, primarily concerned with subtle and intricate patterns of rhythm and sound (nothing to do with the similarly named Kathakali style which uses dance and mime to tell elaborate stories).

Durga Lal's command of Kathak began as is customary, with a study of all its component elements: vocal music, percussion and dance. But his mastery arose only partly from the virtuoso grasp of rhythms, sounds and movements which he developed. He had, besides, a natural but compelling presence, an air of patient ease, and an ability to convey his complex and attractive personality, at once authoritative and humorous.

Consequently, he not only satisfied devotees of Kathak, but could make the style accessible to audiences, who knew nothing of its traditions, drawing in the spectator to share his own evident enjoyment of the skills involved.

These were impressive, as he started a dialogue with his musicians by rapidly chanting an elaborate vocal phrase, full of percussive consonants, then continued that dialogue with the stamping of his bare feet on a wooden floor, the sound amplified by a thick belt of little bells round each ankle.

His movement patterns consisted of lifting walks or runs, punctuated by quick turns on the spot or in a circle, and accompanied by writhing movements of the hands and arms. Sudden pauses introduced poses full of curves and contrasting angles, as satisfying as a sculpture.

Durga Lal was born in September 1948 at Mahendragarh, Rajasthan, and his first teachers there included his father, Omkar Lal, a renowned musician, and his dancer brother, Devi.

After further study with leading masters he danced all over India and toured to Australia, Russia, Europe, the United States and the Caribbean islands. He was also a highly regarded teacher.

His last appearances in Britain were in September 1989 when he gave concerts with his pupil, Renu Bassi, and also starred in Ravi Shankar's dance drama, *Ghanashyam*, for the City of Birmingham touring opera.

ARCHBISHOP DERDERIAN

Spiritual leader of the Armenians of the Holy Land

Yeghishe Derderian, the Patriarch of the Armenian Church in Jerusalem, died on February 1, at the age of 80. He had been spiritual leader of the 10,000-strong Armenian community in Israel, the West Bank and Jordan for the past 30 years.

Derderian was a man of a lively turn of mind, and could give rein to a mischievous sense of humour. But, though his general demeanour was that of a supremely unassuming patriarch, he was conscious of his role as leader of the Holy Land's Armenians.

The community's position gives it an authority out of all proportion to its numbers, and conveys on its leader a corresponding importance among Armenians worldwide. As one of the three Christian churches in the region the Armenian Church also shares guardianship of a number of important holy sites.

Recent events in Soviet Armenia, the earthquake in 1987, and the continuing strife between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities, had also enhanced the importance of the Armenian church of the Holy Land, and Archbishop Derderian was active in promoting aid from the community to its fellow community in the USSR, and in forging enduring links between the two.

He was also conscious of the importance of his small church in terms of the politics of religion in the Holy Land, and although remaining on very good terms with Israel, would use days of religious festival for pronouncements on the necessity of being mindful of justice for the Arabs in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Born in Turkey, Derderian escaped the slaughters of Armenians in 1915, in which his parents perished, and fled to Jerusalem.

There he studied for the priesthood, and became deputy Patriarch in 1949. He was installed as Patriarch in 1960.

Derderian published over 20 books on theology and was a respected poet.

SIR CHARLES BARING

Life devoted to public service at home and abroad

Sir Charles Baring, Second Baronet, DL, who died in Seaview, Isle of Wight, on January 25, aged 91, served in both world wars, though in widely differing capacities, and also devoted himself to the prison and probation services both here and in the Colonies. In retirement he rendered sterling service to the Bench of his native Isle of Wight, of which he was also a Deputy Lieutenant.

His father had been a Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for 30 years, and of the Isle of Wight County Council for 50 years. So, with so many of his famous family, Sir Charles Baring's own life was dominated by public service.

As a subaltern in the Coldstream Guards he was severely wounded in 1918. In the Second World War after working for a time in the War Office he contrived assignment to the Political Warfare Executive where he was attached to the American section dropping supplies into Yugoslavia. These included a Rolls Royce car, which he handed over to Tito as a gift from Churchill.

In the 1930s he worked briefly in the prison service and then became a London probation officer and after the

War a Home Office inspector of the probation service. He then transferred to the Colonial Service and for four years was warden of prisons in Bermuda.

On retirement he returned to the Isle of Wight. As President he enthused the supporters of the Isle of Wight Lifeboat Board who raised large sums for the national institution and gave vigorous backing to the Bembridge and Yarmouth Boats.

He was a popular chairman of the Isle of Wight Beagles with whom he hunted regularly. He was particularly well equipped by experience for the magistracy and as the first chairman of the unified Island Bench his quiet authority and human understanding welded in three divisions without friction into an effective whole. The magistrate's clerk recalls with admiration that he enthused his colleagues with his high standards and his pride in the standing and performance of the Bench.

He married late and his wife predeceased him. They had no children but he seemed to escape the loneliness of extreme old age because he remained to the end a charm and vitality, which brought him a steady flow of affectionate visitors.

Sigmund Sternberg

Auschwitz convent's prolonged tragedy

The latest developments in the protracted saga of the Roman Catholic convent at Auschwitz call to mind the Orpheus legend, in which suspicion ultimately supersedes trust and leads to disaster.

If the declaration that the Carmelite nuns would move, embodied in the letter addressed to me last September (*The Times*, September 21) by the Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, may be compared to the agreement that Eurycleia would follow Orpheus out of the underworld, the corollary, that the Jewish people should exercise patience and understanding, rather than engage in hostile rhetoric, is equally valid.

The furor surrounding the convent can essentially be seen as a misunderstanding arising from a divergence between Jewish and Catholic sensitivities towards the dead. For the Jew, the immeasurable agony of the *Shoah*, of which Auschwitz remains the most potent symbol, does not require a concrete religious memorial. On the other side, Polish awareness of their own people's suffering under the Nazis and the equally authentic, though different, approach to prayer and the dead encapsulated in the nuns' vigil, needed to be recognized by Jews as realities rather than as manifestations of anti-Semitism.

In the event, the crisis was compounded by steps taken by some Jewish activists, coupled with the attitude, prevalent in Jewish

communities throughout the world and strongly voiced in the Jewish press, that once again Jewish interests were being sacrificed to Christian expediency. This led to retaliatory statements by prominent Polish clerics which suggested that the problem would remain intractable.

To break the impasse, the skills of dialogue had to be called into play and paramount among these is listening to the concerns of the other and his definition of himself. It was evidently his ability to express his pain and that of his people to a handful of Jews gathered at a dinner in London last September, with the Polish ambassador as host, that led Cardinal Glemp to reverse the statement he had made at Bristol the day before that the nuns could expect his support if they refused to move, and instead to affirm the speedy implementation of the Geneva agreement.

It was his changed perception of Jews as a people who could show moderation and understanding that enabled him to put his signature to a letter recognizing that "the tragedy and sacrifice of the *Shoah* defy any comparison" and urging the promotion of "friendly dialogue between Christians and Jews...which is so dear to us."

However the nuns have not yet moved. Jews have made plain our concern that temporary accommodation be erected as soon as possible so that building delays may not cause further harm to Jewish-Catholic relations. We have been reassured by Cardinal Glemp's statement that the decision to move the convent to a new location is now "irreversible," and impressed by his commitment to fostering Catholic-Jewish understanding, particularly on the popular level where, he admits, "ignorance of Jews and Judaism is widespread."

The delay in implementing the 1987 agreement has, sadly, revealed a fissure within the Jewish people which may be seen to reflect the predicament facing Orpheus as he left the underworld with Eurycleia behind him. This split also emphasises the tension between universalism and particularism endemic to Judaism. How far can a Jew trust and reach out to the other and how far does he need to look out for himself?

It is hardly surprising that hackles were raised by Cardinal Glemp's somewhat intemperate accusations against the American-Jewish activists who demonstrated outside the convent last July, and a retraction subsequently demanded. This led to a bitter dispute in the American-Jewish community epitomized in conflicting statements from prominent leaders. While one claims that "the attempt to obtain an indictment against Glemp for defamation is reckless provocation," the other insists that "we have learned acquiescence to anti-Semitism is an invitation to increased anti-Semitism."

There are times, none the less, when Jewish paranoia, however understandable, can cause incalculable damage to Jewish interests. The parlous situation in Eastern and Central Europe, where strong nationalistic forces have been unleashed by the recent revolutionary changes, calls for particular restraint.

While overt expressions of anti-Semitism are deemed unacceptable by the new leadership, these leaders themselves are on trial; failure on their part to give substance to the heady notions of freedom their peoples now enjoy will bring in its wake a re-emergence of xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

It is vital, therefore, that Jews remain sensitive to the very real economic crisis confronting the Polish government and take heart from the positive developments towards the removal of the Carmelite convent from its present site, even if these have not yet reached fruition. Leading Polish clerics have confirmed that land has been acquired for the building of an ecumenical centre, in which the convent will be relocated, and plans drawn up.

Furthermore, according to a recent report in the Belgian Catholic daily newspaper, *La Libre Belgique*,

construction on the new centre will begin this month, if weather permits. This will be financed by a fund set up by the Archbishop of Cracow, with the help of donations from Western Catholics who, on the whole, have been extremely supportive of Jewish sensitivities throughout.

Now that the forces of reconciliation on both sides can finally be said to be in the ascendant, it is surely tragic that a new controversy has been sparked by an unknown organization's petition protesting against Polish and Roman Catholic attitudes towards the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

An Israeli-based association, "For My Brothers Keep Not Silent," published a full-page petition in the international edition of the *Jerusalem Post* and other Israeli newspapers. Signed by Israel's two Chief Rabbis, leading mayors, rabbis and heads of educational institutions it protested against "foot dragging and failure to honour promises," to remove the convent.

By this action the association has harmed Israel's interests just at a time when the Polish and Israeli Governments had declared their intention to restore diplomatic ties.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg is chairman of the Executive of the International Council of Christians and Jews and is a Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great, a papal order.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Madam de Sevigne, writer, Paris, 1629; Sir Robert Peel, prime minister 1834-35, 1841-45, 1845-46; Bury, Lancashire, 1788; John Boyd Dunlop, pioneer of pneumatic tyres, Drenth, Strathclyde, 1840; Karl Haysmans, novelist, Paris, 1848; Sir Arthur Keith, physiologist and anthropologist, Aberdeen, 1856.

DEATHS: Philipp Jakob Spener, theologian, founder of Pietism, Berlin, 1705; Thomas Carlyle, London, 1881; A. B. ("Banjo") Paterson, Australian folk poet, 1941; George Arliss, actor, London, 1946; H. M. Tomlinson, novelist and essayist, London, 1958; Marjorie Moore, poet, New York, 1972.

London bound

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother today ends her six-week holiday at Sandringham in Norfolk and returns to Clarence House.

هكذا من الأصل

SPECTRUM 3

'I get many beautiful greetings, but I always feel there is something missing, a letter from you'

Continued from page 13

and then nursing with the result that they rise to positions of responsibility and influence quicker. Those without real ambition and drive are left to work hard in inferior positions for the rest of their lives.

I am really surprised to note that in spite of your cruel experience you are not able to think of anything more than to be an ordinary nurse. At least your mum was able to reach that position 34 years ago, quite an achievement in those days. Later she did a midwifery course. Do you mean to tell me that all that you think you are worth is to be no more than your Mum was more than three decades ago? Think, Maki, think, you are only 24 and the whole world is at your feet.

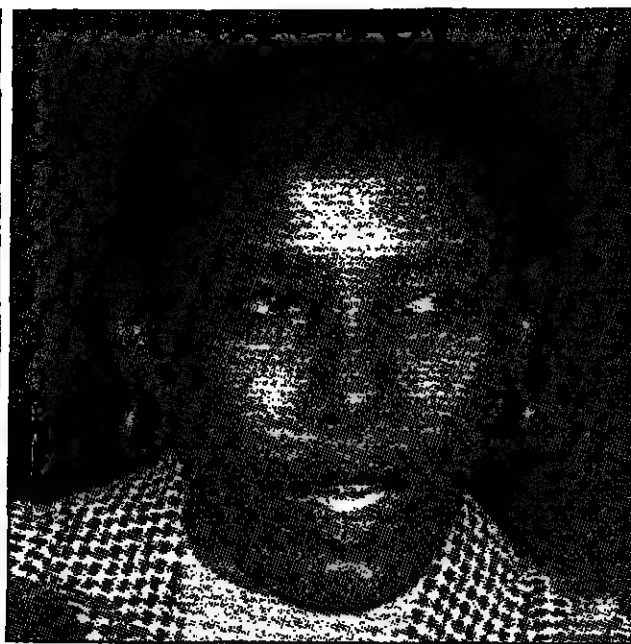
December 31

Maki. There are certain precautions you should take to prepare yourself for a fruitful study career. You must brush up your knowledge through systematic reading of literature and newspapers. Try to read a novel even if just for an

hour a day... You may also subscribe to *The Sunday Times* (in Johannesburg) if it is not available at variety. Make it a point, no matter how busy you may be to at least read the editorial carefully and understand it thoroughly. If you do so diligently you will be surprised just how fast your general understanding of facts will become.

You should also do regular physical exercises, especially track running. It has the advantage of exercising all parts of your body and giving you a feeling of well-being. Such activities sharpen interest in your studies and also raise the level of your performance in the classroom. Please consider my suggestions objectively.

I should like to mention that I am surprised that you attach no significance whatsoever to such important things as birthdays and Christmas cards. Not only have you never sent me one, you have never even had the simple courtesy of thanking me for the numerous birthday and Christmas messages I have sent you during the past eight to ten years. Every year I get beautiful greetings from many well-wishers, messages which I value. But I always feel



Makaziwe (Maki) won a scholarship and lives in America

that there is something missing, a message from you and Makgatho. Nevertheless, your letter has made up for all that. It has brought spring-time into my heart and I feel really proud of you. Looking to seeing you in January. Tons and tons of love and a million kisses. Affectionately, Tata.

1979

February 3
Zindzi. My darling, Moodiness is but a common condition that affects many people. In your case it is quite understandable. For you, Zeni and Mum it has been an uphill struggle for more than a decade and a half. After so many years it



Nelson Mandela has tried to guide his five children from jail

does not seem that real relief is in sight.

February 20

Maki. I look forward to seeing you again. But I would suggest that you apply in time, especially if you intend coming down in June;

there are now more visitors to the Island (Robben) and you can never be sure to get a particular date unless you apply several months in advance. By the way, I am told that during the disturbances at Fort Hare last year you were seriously injured, so much so that you were hospitalised. Can you

give me particulars if this information is true? I sent the children's Xmas and birthday cards to Cofimvaba and I hope they all got them. Makgatho and Aunt Judy visited me in August last year. He later sent me an Xmas card. I have been unable to send him a birthday card. I miss you very badly and look forward to seeing you, possibly next June.

March 11

Maki. You should not discuss your domestic problems and religious views with others even if they are your intimate friends. Keep these matters strictly to yourself. In this way you will come to enjoy your variety days and later look back at them with fond memories.

March 25

Zindzi. I have reminded you before now, and I do so again, that you are one of the luckiest girls in the country. You have the whole world at your feet if you make proper use of your opportunities. You have ripened before your time and already you have made achievements which are a source of real pride and happiness not only to the family and relatives, but to friends and members of the public who have never met you. You have a lovely personality and people take easily to you. Your picture on my book case between that of Mum and Zeni reflects your personality very well. You look alert, full of go and relaxed; at peace with yourself and the world. If you consciously remember this, moments of depression will be at a minimum.

What you have every reason to do is to be angry with the fates for the setbacks you may have suffered from time to time, to vow that you will turn those misfortunes into victory. There are few misfortunes in this world that you cannot turn into a personal triumph if you have the iron will and the necessary skill.

When I say to you, in confidence, and as a father advising a beloved daughter facing unusual problems, that your inquisitive mind, relaxed disposition, lovely sense of humour, ability to make friends, extra-mural activities, all put you in a position to conquer new worlds and to fulfill even your wildest dreams. That is our Zindzi! That's the reason why the family, relatives and our friends have so much confidence in you.

March 26

Zeni. I hope the telegram in which I congratulated you on the arrival of Zuzela Zanele reached you in time. Every sentence and every word in this letter has been inspired by the pride and joy of being two times a grandpa. I am looking forward to seeing Zuzi as soon as it will be safe for her to fly down and sail across the waters of the Atlantic...

Mum's telegram came when I was just on the point of writing to suggest that this time the honour of naming the baby should be reserved for the Swazis. They may be easily offended if we ignore them in such matters. The only redeeming feature is that the baby is a girl. If it were a boy they would probably have insisted on exercising their prerogative. Maybe the next time you will be luckier than Mum and that your third child will be a boy. I can well imagine the security and excitement the birth of a son will bring. I sometimes expect that the expression of concern and uncertainty on the part of Mum may be partly due to my absence from home and partly to the events that overtook us before we had a son. The thought of you and Zindzi married and away, leaving her alone without anybody to look after her in her old age is eating deep into her soul. But I hope that the eagerness to get a son will not obsess you. Relax completely in regard to things beyond your control and do not allow them to interfere with your happiness. You must plan the birth of your next one a little better, during the holidays.

September 2

Maki. It came to me as a big surprise to know that you have a boyfriend who takes you out. I am also glad to know that you have not hidden the true facts from him (a reference to her failed first marriage). I have full confidence in your honesty and know that you will always try to act correctly according to the best of your ability. It was correct and dignified for you to tell

him the truth. But you must give me the particulars, eg his name and surname and what his parents do, the course he is taking and his age.

September 9

Zindzi. Though I last saw you only 57 days ago, I miss you very much and my mind frequently wanders between the OFS (Orange Free State) and Transvaal, between Brandfort and Norwood. I see you yapping with Mum and Oupa and Granny, gossiping about this and that, asking this and that question, listening to the radio, looking at TV in the evening and suddenly grabbing pen and paper as some inspiration feeds your thoughts and feelings. I say yapping, not yelping, because my old girl and Granny are too peaceful to make you cry.

September 26

Winnie. I am surprised at Zeni's lack of ambition and fitness. She is gambling away her entire future. Without proper academic qualifications they cannot be quite secure in any position they now hold. The Swazis, like all other people of Africa, have discovered the value of education. They are trying to give their children the best opportunities within their means. Though she may appear secure and happy today, time will soon leave its marks on her, and the affections that now seem so strong may gradually wear out and even loosen. Zeni will be lacking in imagination and foresight if she allows herself to be reduced into the position of an outsider who is deficient in so crucial an aspect.

1980

January 27

Zindzi. During this year you were here six times and I got nine letters from you, each one bringing more love and good wishes. Apart from the several telegrams you sent, I also received from you, birthday and Xmas cards. All these help to iron out the wrinkles of advancing age, make old limbs flexible and the blood to flow smoothly.

I am still struggling to get your anthology. I have already told you that I was allowed to read, but not take notes from, Dr Alan Paton's review of your poetry. I thought your themes were well chosen and your language simple and crisp, so much so that I can still see the black bird insulting the wall, giving you its back and flying off gracefully at an awkward angle; the black beauty "who reminds me of who I am". Nevertheless, Darling, Dr Paton makes a good point when he advises you to go over your poems carefully. Raw feelings will be polished, putting down words on paper will become an art. But Mantu, neither Dr Paton's remarks nor mine should be taken as a criticism. They are merely a tip to a girl we both love and respect.

1981

March 1

Maki. I think of Mum and all the children, of the pride and joy you all give me. Among us is Nobutho, the beautiful Mantu whose love and loyalty, visits, letters, birthday and Xmas cards are essential parts of the efforts of the family to help me endure many of the challenges of the last two decades.

1983

June 29

Winnie. The Simon Boliwar Award which we share with Spain coincides with our twenty-fifth anniversary. These honours which have come from many parts of the world are a measure of support for our close friends, those with whom we grew up, schooled together, worked and lived in the same ghettos, and with whom we shared unique experiences, difficult to explain in our present circumstances... men and women who have, denied themselves the pleasures, comforts and honours which they so richly deserve, so that you and I can enjoy some sort of security and happiness. They and they alone are primarily responsible for whatever delightful news may warm our hearts.

• Taken from Higher Than Hope, the authorized biography of Nelson Mandela, by Fatima Meer, to be published on Wednesday by Hamish Hamilton at £15.99.

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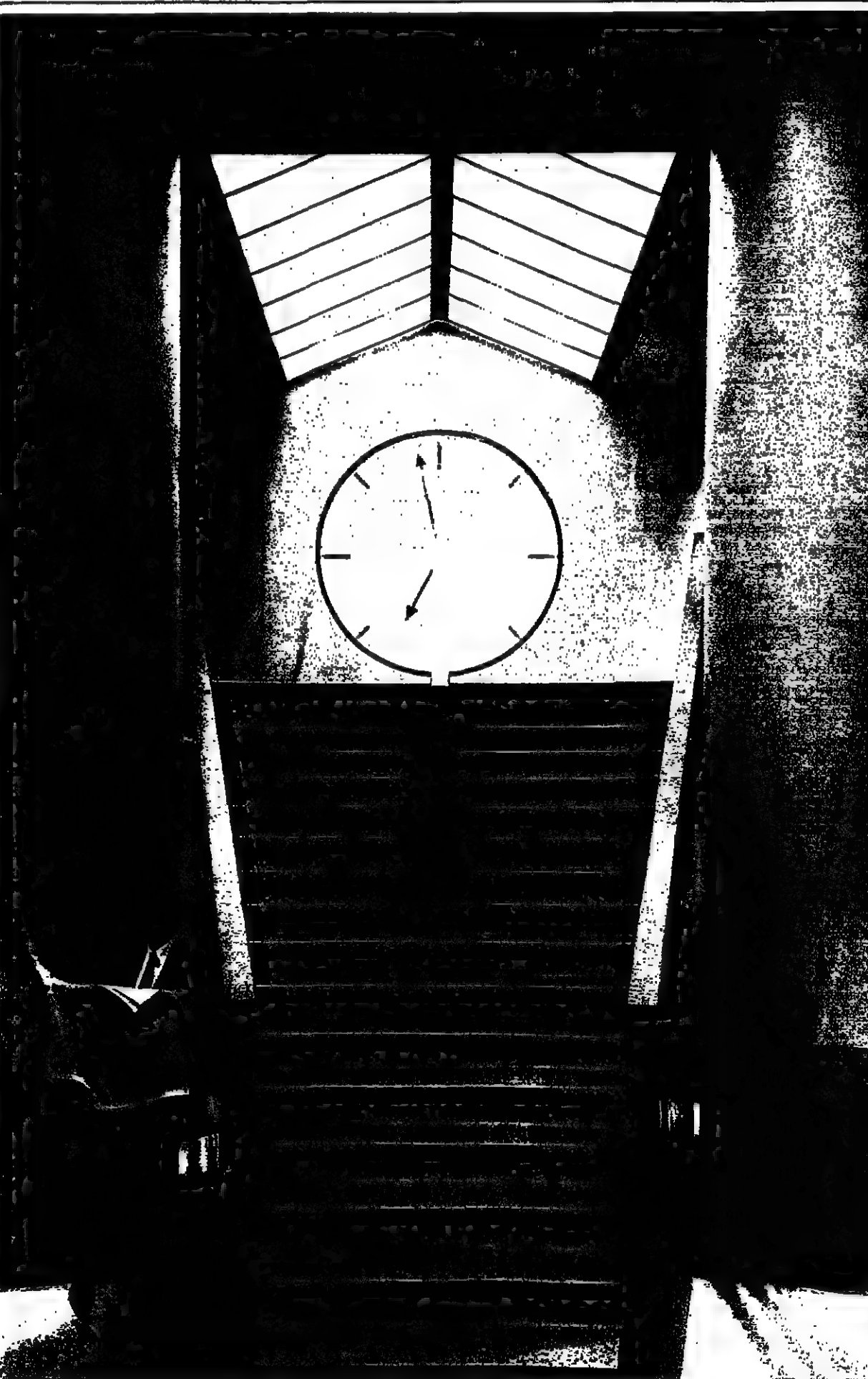
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MONDAY PAGE

Consuming passions

Inherit it, marry it or make it: Libby Purves surveys the 20 most moneyed women in Europe

Michael Maconochie was very sorry when Elena Ceausescu was executed in Romania. "I was very much dismayed when she, um, unfortunately had to leave," he says. "There was nothing for it but to bring in Lady Porter instead, at the bottom, and move the Duchess of Alba and the rest up a notch. It was a great pity."

This man is not organizing some fearsome pan-European matriarchal coup, nor were his regrets for Elena personal ones. It was merely that she represented weeks of painstaking, now wasted, work finding out how rich she was. "A long time ago I read a small piece in a newspaper claiming that Nicolae only wore his suits once in case they had been poisoned. I thought he must have had an amazing clothes bill, so I started checking their finances. There is an established communist banking route which starts with money passing through numbered accounts in Austria for laundering in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, so I began checking up with my contacts."

He discovered the astonishing (and thoroughly unpalatable) fact that Elena Ceausescu, as an individual, was the fourteenth-richest woman in Europe, with a nine-figure fortune putting her close behind capitalist heroines like Giuliana Benetton. Now that she has gone, unable to take it with her, the list has to end with Lady Shirley Porter, Conservative leader of Westminster Council and Tesco heiress, but "she has only got 50 million, poor dear."

It is a strange hobby, but clearly an absorbing one. Maconochie is a financial journalist who one day grew weary of "writing about the economy all day and worrying about it all night", and set himself the more amusing task of researching the 20 richest women in Europe. The result of his labours appears in the latest issue of *Harpers & Queen* magazine. Concentrating on rich women provided a peculiar challenge: whereas members of his trade can rattle off lists of 40 or 50 European billionaires, and regularly check the status of a hundred other super-rich individuals, women in this bracket of wealth are comparatively rare.

"For a start, there are more self-made male billionaires than female. Women, I suppose, are raising families. And it may be true that they are less inspired to make vast fortunes than men, though the ones who do run huge businesses are entirely capable of it, and very involved." In this category he cites fabulously powerful women like Johanna Quandt, 67-year-old controlling force of the German car firm, BMW. She is the third richest on the list, after our Queen and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands: she still commutes daily from Bad Homburg to Wiesbaden in her BMW, musing no doubt upon the benefits of owning 66 per cent of the company, plus holdings in 100 others all over the world. She inherited her fortune from her late husband, Herbert, son of the founder, whose third wife she was; but she has taken the running of it as a personal job.

So has the other notable German billionaire, Grete Schickedanz of the Quelle mail-order chain. Hers is a story of winning the peace: her late husband was banned from doing business for five years after the Second World War because he had been a member of the Nazi party. So she

ran it instead, following his motto that "The penny is the soul of the billion."

Any man daydreaming about this list as a fortune-hunter's charter is doomed to disillusionment. The 20 wealthiest women in Europe tend to be tough cookies. "I would not want to mess with the Koplowitz sisters, one of whom seems to be becoming available at the moment," Maconochie says. The Koplowitz story is pure *Dynasty*: two sisters marrying two cousins, both called Alberto, in a tangle of Spanish civil and governmental take-overs; both girls company vice-presidents, both husbands wayward, one finally unmasked by a radio talk-show caller when he was having an orange mini-dress and no underwear.

A fortune-hunter might cautiously conclude that some families are more trouble than they are worth to marry into. Besides, most of the women on the list have grown up living and breathing big money; they are armed not only with the toughness and cynicism born of years running multinationals, but with impenetrable physical security. Little Athina Onassis wears a radio transmitter at all times and moves amid a discreet forest of detectives; and attempts by Maconochie to interview Johanna Quandt, or even one of her friends, are set back by months every time the *Beader-Meinhof* gang emerges into the headlines.

The nearest to the Hollywood dream of a fabulously rich girl whom you might meet out on a country walk and fall in love with is probably number 17, the Hon Charlotte Morrison, who owns great tracts of Dorset and Nottinghamshire. She is a single parent of 34, eligible, appealing and bearing the hereditary right to call swans. What more could any man want?

Interestingly, she is proof that an English background is a great help to an heiress: her refuge in the green-welly, money-is-vulgar culture of the English shires proves highly effective camouflage. It has been adopted by foreign heiresses too: Eva Larsson, Swedish multi-millionaire, lives in Surrey and rides horses and, says Maconochie mournfully: "Not a single photograph exists of her, even judging the largest marrow at the local fête."

But if soft-centred romance is scarce on the list, the soap opera of commerce and dynastic marriage is very well represented. Maconochie is fond of the story of Giuliana Benetton, whose brother sold his accordion to buy her first knitting-machine, and becomes lyrical about Janni Spies-Kjaer, of Denmark. "It's a Cinderella story. She began as a lift operator, and was working her way up from the switchboard to the typing pool when Simon Spies made a pass at her."

She turned him down repeatedly, until at last, knowing that he had not long to live with his drink-damaged liver, Spies proposed both marriage and a series of management courses. By the time he died she was on the board, aged 21, and became sole owner of a

company with nearly £100 million annual turnover, including the ConAir airline and the travel company Tjaereborg. Today she is 26 with a new husband and baby, and every mass-market newspaper in Denmark has a full-time Janni correspondent. They see her as an irresistible cross between the Princess of Wales and Richard Branson.

And what about number one, the richest woman in Europe? It is, of course, the Queen, head and shoulders above the rest with £53 billion of personal wealth. Michael Maconochie is fascinated, and unexpectedly acid, when he touches on the House of Windsor's wealth. "Since Victoria came to the throne in debt, they have amassed a larger and larger slice of the national cake, and very secretly. In the last century royal wills were public, like yours and mine. Today they are sealed. And have you noticed what happens over the poll tax? Formerly the Royal Family got out of income tax, inheritance,



Ways to riches: Janni Spies-Kjaer (above) married the boss; Giuliana Benetton (top right) made her own millions; and Lady Porter (above right) inherited them

capital gains — the lot. But they did pay rates on Sandringham. Not any more."

He is sceptical about claims that the Royal Family only just breaks even on the Civil List, and becomes particularly sharp on the grey area between Crown property — the national heritage of which the monarch is only custodian — and personal property. "One

of the great Windsor skills has been the subtle absorption of gifts to the head of state."

These things — diamonds, gold cups, and so on — appear to be national heritage, says Maconochie, then vanish for a generation and reappear as "wholly plausible family possessions". If this sounds startling, he cites the Cullinan diamond, given to Edward VII

as a peace offering after the Boer War. After cleaving two large sections went into the Sceptre and the Imperial State Crown; but the other nine, worth £100 million, went into jewellery and are now what the Queen calls "Granny's chips".

Looking at the trusts, the transfers, the international manoeuvres practised by the

very rich, it seems impossible to believe that he has not missed a few, better disguised from the inquisitive market trackers. He thinks not: "They do show up, if you keep an eye open. But there was one woman I can't mention, who managed to convince us that her tax return would show a different figure from the one we had arrived at. I am sure

she would have been able to back up that figure. We dropped her."

Out of chivalry? He is shocked. "Oh no. Certainly not. I wouldn't dream of being chivalrous. The rich are fair game. Wealth may be a great burden, so they say, but it is a burden which I would be quite willing to shoulder. Wouldn't you?"



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EUROPE'S 20 RICHEST WOMEN

1. The Queen, £5,300,000,000
2. Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, £2,800,000,000
3. Johanna Quandt, controls 60 per cent of BMW: £2,100,000,000
4. Grete Schickedanz, owns Quelle (Europe's largest mail order company): £1,200,000,000
5. Liliane Bettencourt, L'Oréal heiress: £990,000,000
6. Madeleine Dassault, owns 49.7 per cent of Avions Dassault (military aircraft): £630,000,000
7. Athina Onassis-Roussel, Onassis heiress: £500,000,000
8. Alicia Koplowitz, ConyCon heiress (property and investment): £375,000,000
9. Esther Koplowitz, sister of Alicia, see above: £375,000,000
10. Janni Spies-Kjaer, owner of Spies Rejser (package tours): £330,000,000
11. Ida Gardini, husband owns Farfin (Europe's biggest grain trader): £310,000,000
12. Giuliana Benetton, part owner of the Benetton (knitwear) chain: £210,000,000
13. Martina Philipson, £200,000,000
14. The Duchess of Alba, £100,000,000
15. Eva Larsson, property heiress: £95,000,000
16. Odile Racamier, married to Henri Vuitton of the luggage company: £90,000,000
17. Charlotte Morrison, property heiress: £55,000,000
18. Isabel Preysler, married to Miguel Boyer, a banker: £53,000,000
19. Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentley, property heiress: £52,000,000
20. Lady Shirley Porter, Tesco heiress: £50,000,000

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THE ARTS

Familiar but not ordinary

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

In a winter when *A Sense of Guilt* and *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* have already raised the level of domestic Anger on television to new heights of soap-operatic hysteria, the problems of a man going to bed with his own sister might seem relatively minor.

But incest is still a criminal offence in this country, and last night's *Screen 2* film, *Close Relations*, was a well-crafted account of a middle-aged long-distance truck driver leaving his wife and children for a woman with whom he just happened to share parents.

Stanley Price's slow-starting script was as much concerned with the reactions of appalled relatives and neighbours as with the central soft-focus love story. This was impeccably directed by Adrian Shergold and the siblings were intelligently played by James Hazeldine and Clare Holman.

As the possibility of a seven-year jail sentence came closer, it acquired considerable tension before finally lurching over the edge into a melodramatic conclusion out of *A Star is Born*.

Saturday's Channel 4 interview with Marlon Brando, proudly billed as the first in 16 years, turned out to be an experience of rare and awful fascination. Looking at 65, like Rod Steiger playing Citizen Kane's grandfather for the Kabuki Theatre of Japan, Brando was seen sitting in what appeared to be a studio set left over from *Teahouse of the August Moon*.

Here he ponderously stonewalled some giggly, nervous questions from an American news-woman called Conde Chung. Chung is, they tell me, much respected in New York television circles. On the subject of Brando's films she betrayed all the background knowledge and critical acumen of a sheep in a thick fog.

Frequently referring to Brando as the world's greatest actor, a breathtakingly inaccurate allegation which even he seemed to find embarrassing, she accepted his rambling evasions and maddeningly unspecific career recollections as the words of a master philosopher.

Brando appears to have granted the interview in order to attack MGM for truncating his appearance in the current movie *A Dry White Season*, and for declining to give him an additional \$3 million (£1,786,000) to apartheid fighters, having already paid him \$3 million for appearing in the film.

The real tragedy here is Brando's self-destruction of a once illustrious career. Forty years on from *On the Waterfront*, the man could still have been a contender. As it is, he has become as reclusive as Howard Hughes and as boring as a plastic Buddha on a studio back-lot.

British musicals dominate Broadway, but Holly Hill has news of a US plan to recapture the musical initiative

Let's take it from the top



Harold Prince: "tired of hearing that Broadway no longer really counts"

The renaissance of American musical theatre may take place on a university campus 90 minutes from Broadway. Five secretive years in development, New Musicals was heralded in a jubilant Manhattan press conference last week. The for-profit organization, backed by the Broadway theatre-owning and producing Jujamcyn Theatres, two media corporations, an artists management agency, and three corporate executives, has raised nearly \$11 million (£6,550,000) to stage four musicals per year over the next four seasons.

Beginning in May with *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, with book by Terrence McNally, music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and direction by Harold Prince, New Musicals productions will be rehearsed and staged in one of two theatres in the Performing Arts Centre of the State University of New York at Purchase, the complex that housed the recently disbanded PepsiCo Summerline.

The first season will also include an adaptation of *The Secret Garden* with book and lyrics by Pulitzer Prize winner (night, *Mother*) Marsha Norman, Erica Jong's adaptation of her best-selling novel *Fanny*, and a musical based on *My Favourite Year*, the film that starred Peter O'Toole.

New Musicals' Broadway-quality productions, at \$1.25m (or £745,000) each, will be made

possible by cooperation from unions and guilds, which have scaled down salaries and royalties and scaled up working time for the project. The producing director, Martin J. Bell, said: "The single biggest reason for the decline of the American musical is the rising costs. All of our partners have made sacrifices to lower these costs substantially. The theatre community has rallied to the cause, and the cause is the revitalization of the American musical."

The plan is for seasoned musical theatre artists, crossover writers, pop and avant-garde composers and promising unknowns to have an opportunity to develop musicals from conception to full production. No show will "open", but will be worked on throughout its eight-to-nine week run. The university setting will give students and audiences various opportunities to become part of the process. What stake New Musicals will have in further productions of the shows it develops, and what (if any) role theatre critics will be allowed to have, are questions still officially undecided.

Harold Prince, among the developers of New Musicals, reflected that "I do not believe that anyone starting today could have the career I've had in the theatre. There isn't the encouragement or opportunities."

"The economic costs of producing and operating on Broadway are so astronomical that the pres-

ures have gotten too complicated to bear. My sense of freedom and independence, my fight, my ability to do shows have been eroded, and I want them back."

He adds: "I could never get most of my flops on Broadway now. I couldn't do *Pacific Overtures*, but it had to be done. Think of all we learnt from it. I can trace things I tried in *Zorba*, another flop, that succeeded in *Evita* 15 years later. That's what the growing process is about, and what I hope New Musicals resuscitates. I don't ever again want to think whether what I'm doing is right for Broadway. I just want to do the work and let other people decide if they want it."

"I am tired of hearing that Broadway no longer really counts. The best on Broadway is the best there is, wherever it comes from. The British musical is great, and thank God for it, because it has kept Broadway alive for 10 years and I have directed two happy collaborations. I hate the chauvinistic resentment of the British musical."

"I am also sick of hearing that not-for-profit theatre is superior. As Steve Sondheim said recently in Oxford, not-for-profit theatre exists in a protected environment. Broadway is the proving ground. We want to stop all these resentments and redress the balance, and it may very well be that New Musicals can do it."

No match for these rock myths

ROCK

David Toop

George Clinton, Bob Dylan, Hammersmith Odeon

Surrounded by ecstatic, dancing bodies, it is deflating, yet strangely enervating for a critic to be told that the performance that he is watching "ain't" nothing but a good time, man". This was George Clinton's analysis of his own show delivered from the stage, and with his age, experience, and achievements, surely there must be something in what he says.

Nevertheless, there is an overpowering desire to prove him wrong and unearth a hidden meaning. We have grown accustomed to treating the myths and legends of popular music with great seriousness. Both Clinton and Bob Dylan have been recording since the Sixties and their influence (on rap and rock respectively) is as keenly felt as ever. Their reputations elevate them to a high plane of artistic invulnerability, yet an uninitiated observer, stumbling into either of these concerts, might have departed in a daze, wondering what all the fuss was about.

Take George Clinton and his band. Fifteen minutes of glorious musical ruminations based around "Funk (Wants To Get Funked Up)" and other fragments from the Clinton back catalogue were followed by an extended roller-coaster of highs and lows. Clinton, wearing a long multi-hued wig, acted as an avuncular, slightly mad host at a funky surrealist convention. Conducting a superb band, rapping, singing and delivering sermons, he offered an unguided tour through his rather special history.

Snatches of songs like "Up for the Down Stroke", "Goin' On Ya", and "Standing on the Verge of Getting It On" were interspersed with jazzy trombone and piano features, a bass-guitar solo, overlong jam sessions which fizzled into silence and a version of Chuck Brown's old hit, "Bustin' Loose". Then came "Maggot Brain", a protracted exercise in psychedelic guitar heroics first recorded in 1971. Younger members of the audience looked fuddled at this point. Perhaps they had come with a neat conception of Clinton as the grandfather of black funk. "Think," George advised them, "it ain't illegal yet, and this was clearly what they were having to do."

The suggestion is frequently made that black veterans like Clinton are given an easier critical ride than their white counterparts. There is some truth in this, but black stars like Clinton were resolutely ignored during their creative years and have generally fallen on hard times, they deserve a little respect now.

Bob Dylan, on the other hand, has been an object of worship for much of his career. After the Bacchanal of Clinton the previous night, the Dylan audience was almost pentecostal in its mood. He was dressed in a white jacket with a black Stratoscator guitar, backed by a functional rock trio. His face in shadow, he gave the illusion of having regained his rock 'n' roll beatnik image of the Sixties.

My own interest in Dylan waned in 1967, I must confess, only revived by the mysterious ambience created by producer Daniel Lanois on the new album. These atmospherics were absent on stage. The new songs sounded like nursery rhymes, detached from their moody settings, and classics like "All Along the Watchtower", and "It Ain't Me, Babe" were rendered almost unrecognizable in an often ugly thrash.

After a 20-minute acoustic interlude, Dylan switched to a silver-speckled Telecaster and began to enjoy himself, wriggling his hips and attacking the guitar. Delirious fans tried to invade the stage, leaving me to assume that I am immune to the presence of genius.

One for the guest

DANCE

John Percival

Swan Lake, Covent Garden

The Royal Ballet will have to find another man tall enough to partner its regular guest ballerina Sylvie Guillem when Jonathan Cope takes his premature retirement in the summer, and the rising star Doreen Bussell is also tall. Rumour has it that we shall see a lot more of Laurent Hilaire, another popular guest from Paris, and on Saturday he danced his first London *Swan Lake*.

This was the day also for Bussell's first appearance in the ballerina role, but they were not put together. She danced the matinee with Cope, he the evening performance with the company's senior ballerina, Lesley Collier.

Anthony Dowell's production, unfortunately, is so full of irrelevant detail that it is difficult to make much emotional impact, but the evening team were obviously doing their best to overcome this and they succeeded to an extent,

especially in the lyrical last act. Not so in the afternoon. Bussell, for all her precocious physical gifts, is proving a slower developer dramatically. She had clearly been coached carefully in the mime, and performed all the right gestures but without much underlying sense of purpose, and Cope's usual phlegmatic manner was hardly likely to awaken that.

So Bussell's was only a light sketch of the heroine we hope and expect her to become, and we were left more conscious than we otherwise should have been of some minor imperfections, such as the legs swinging too wildly in the big lifts of the duet in Act II.

Hilaire, who is accustomed to a more demanding version of this ballet in Paris, danced a pepped up version of Dowell's wimpyish choreography for the third act solo — very spectacular, and recovering beautifully when one of his tricks went slightly awry. Even more gratifying, however, is the wholehearted way he brings out the fullest force of the most straightforward steps. It is good to see some of the home team emulating this, most notably Errol Pickford, who danced in the *pas de trois* at the matinee.



Doreen Bussell as Odette in *Swan Lake*: "a light sketch of the heroine we hope and expect her to become"

Everybody out in the directors' excuse-me

English National Ballet has started its fortieth anniversary year inauspiciously by losing not only its artistic director Peter Schaufuss (spectacularly sacked last week by a new board of governors), but both its other leading officers, the general administrator Richard Jarman and the planning and production director, Steven Scott. This has left the dancers in a state of shock.

Returning from a week's holiday, they were summoned to meet the new chairman of the board, Pamela, Lady Harlech, and abruptly told that Schaufuss had already been sent packing. A visitor that morning found that the lock on Schaufuss's office had been changed and the door was guarded by a security man.

Scott went the same day; Jarman's resignation (submitted about three weeks ago in an attempt to resolve friction within the company) was accepted by the board at a separate meeting three days later, but he will remain in office until the end of April. The vacancies are to be advertised, and some inquiries have already been received from would-be directors. However, experience suggests that it could be months, even a year or more, before anyone of Schaufuss's standing is available. Some of those mentioned so far as possible candidates are definitely not interested.

Schaufuss was appointed director in 1984 because of his high profile in the profession and his go-getting energy. Already an international star dancer, he became known nationwide through a television series showing a male dancer's life and work. His arrival transformed the company, which had seemed on the brink of closure.

Several exceptionally fine leading dancers joined, and the standard of the *corps de ballet* was also raised. Schaufuss's presence gen-

English National Ballet has shed its artistic director, general administrator and its planning and production director almost overnight. John Percival looks at the uncertain prospects of the erstwhile London Festival company, now in its fortieth anniversary season



Peter Schaufuss: office guarded

erated increased sponsorship, making it possible to stage new productions. His great coup was to restore Ashton's long lost *Romeo and Juliet*; he brought in Natalia Makarova to stage *Swan Lake*; gave Christopher Bruce, the best of the new generation of English choreographers, a place on the staff; and obtained works by leading choreographers: Balanchine, Béjart, MacMillan, Neumeier, Petit.

Jarman joined about the same time, and the new team managed to work down the deficit they inherited. But this necessitated spending much of the year on tour performing the few popular classics which could guarantee full houses. Other interesting productions, which included some exciting mixed bills, had to be confined to a few showings in London, with

even fewer of them in the regions. These conditions, and the inability to pay high salaries, began to lose several of the new stars the company had imported or developed within its ranks. Some castings probably did not help, but he did succeed in persuading many of them to return on a part-time basis. Still, he got the blame for all misfortunes.

Last year, in an attempt to help fund-raising, the company changed its name from London Festival Ballet (an unpopular move with long-term supporters) and it moved its summer season from the Coliseum, where costs had gone up, to the Dominion. The public refused to follow it there, especially in a heatwave, and the deficit shot up again from £100,000 to £350,000.

That sounds small beside Covent Garden's £3 million deficit, but without a theatre of its own English National Ballet gets no benefit from advance ticket sales and has to pay interest on every penny of debt. A new chairman of the board, Ronnie Gorlin (elected in a contested vote to succeed Sir Ian Hunter) reportedly proposed performing nothing but *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia* and *The Nutcracker* until the company was out of the red.

Convinced that such a policy would destroy morale, almost all the dancers and staff signed a petition for another independent chairman. They were given Pamela, Lady Harlech, a member of the Arts Council, with Gorlin as her deputy, and the board was reconstituted.

His first action seems to be the observer rather like cutting off a leg to cure an ingrowing toenail, and once more casts doubt on the British custom of having arts organizations controlled by groups of amateurs, many of them apparently chosen more for financial connections than for artistic knowledge or experience.

Also worrying is the question of what comes next. Scottish Ballet, in somewhat similar circumstances two years ago, appointed a chief executive and has run ever since without a proper artistic director. The same is happening with American Ballet Theatre since Baryshnikov's departure this season, and Paris has not yet announced a successor to Nureyev.

Unless English National Ballet finds a really strong leader to follow Schaufuss, and gives him or her proper control, we can expect to see the company going into decline. Anton Dolin and Julian Braunschweig, its free-enterprise founders 40 years ago, must be pinning their wings to their graves.

Questions of scale for marine mammal

CONCERT

David Fallows

BBC PO/Clebury Studio 7, Manchester

Even though several members of the BBC Philharmonic were currying in the first few minutes of Giles Swayne's *Leviathan*, I would guess that the joke was not really against him. There may be an element of self-parody in the title, since he is plainly a composer who prefers to work on a vast scale. Here he needs eight horns, five percussion players and other forces to match, as the work strikes through something over half an hour.

But he uses those forces well, without any sense of self-indulgence or complexity. The instrumental writing is of a kind that looks and sounds as though it is gratifying to play and gives the musicians the freedom to use their virtuosity to its full extent. Which is to say that it is likely to sound better with each succeeding performance.

That was clear enough in his *Pentecost* music, which the orchestra has played several times over the past 10 years. Nicholas Clebury guided them through a performance of often stunning virtuosity, one that slightly covered the underlying simplicity of the work's design but stressed the bright and shimmering colours in the densely worked argument.

And it was easy to understand why they were eager to put it together with his more recent *Leviathan* to create — in a characteristically bold and imaginative gesture — an entire evening of Swayne's music.

But that may also explain why

Leviathan seemed less convincing. There was plenty of stylish and individual playing, especially from the string soloists and from the cor anglais in the beautiful closing section.

There were also passages that sounded too simple; and there was a certain static element as the work appeared to lumber from one section to another. Without the confidence of knowing exactly what was happening, the music tended to hold its fire.

The whale has had a heavily statististic fascination for writers over the centuries and for several composers in recent years. And in these days of great consciousness it becomes even more symbolic — a matter that Swayne was quick to point out in his programme note.

It may take several more performances before we can hear whether the size of the animal has prompted something grand or whether the work could, with advantage, be pruned.

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INFORMATION SERVICE

In a class of their own



The French sisters Marie and Marie Perle long since made their reputation as a phenomenally accomplished two-piano team. Each is a virtuoso, but it was the razor-sharp precision of their ensemble playing which originally placed them in something of a class of their own. That standard has not always been maintained in the concert hall in more recent years, but the vivacity of their music-making remains, as does their enterprising choice of repertoire, which ranges from Ragtime to Stravinsky to Brahms to Gershwin. This evening at the Festival Hall, for instance, they play Irwin Kostal's arrangement for two pianos and percussion (Jean-Pierre Doreet and Trillek

Gurt) of the Symphonic Dances from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. This will be preceded by an arrangement of an arrangement of Stravinsky's *Three Movements* from his ballet *Petrushka*, this being reworked by Victor Babin, who formed, with Vitya Vrotsky, a distinguished two-piano team of an earlier generation. The piece with which the Labueques begin this evening, Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye*, could scarcely be more different, for it gently evokes the childhood enchantments of episodes in the Beauty and the Beast story. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), 7.30pm, £4-£20. *Max Harrison*

CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

★ HEAR HOWARD: Leslie Howard

always an interesting pianist, played Beethoven's 12 Sonatas Op 27 No 1 and 2.

St John's, Smith St, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 1-2pm, £2.50.

★ MIDLOS MUSIC: The Midlos Quartet

perform Beethoven's Quartet Op 95 and Mendelssohn's Quartet Op 12.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-439 1830), 1.00-2pm, free.

★ TETRA TUNE: The Tetra Quartet

quartet offers Pearson's Mummychops Le Monde and music from Prokofiev's *L'Amour et la Mort*.

St John's, Smith St, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 1-2pm, £2.50.

★ SHIRLEY VALENTINE (15): Warm

hearted film with the popular touch: Shirley Valentine (15).

St John's, Smith St, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 1-2pm, £2.50.

★ 4 HANDS: 2 PIANOS: West Side

Story. Marie Perle and her sister Marie Perle.

St John's, Smith St, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 1-2pm, £2.50.

★ RAMIREZ RECITAL: With Courtney

Kenny at the piano, Alejandro Ramirez, tenor, sings Leon's *La Folia*.

St John's, Smith St, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 1-2pm, £2.50.

★ PRINCE IGOR: ANDREW SHERWIN's new

production for the Royal Opera, now, after its full complement of

stars, but with Bernard Haitink conducting a resurgent Russian cast led by Sergei Leiferkus.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-439 8500), 7.30pm, £2.50.

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



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THEATRE

LONDON

★ BLOOD BROTHERS: Why Russell's

novel effectively depicted the

descent by the English class system.

Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-439 1115), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

★ HARD TIMES: Dickens's

novel effectively depicted the

descent by the English class system.

Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-439 1115), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

★ LONDON ASSURANCE: Paul

Edgington an amusing ageing

beast, with Angela Thorne in

otherwise so-so production from

Chichester. Theatre Royal, Haymarket SW1 (01-930 8820), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

★ MA RAINY'S BLACK BOTTOM

August Wilson's play about

black musicians being ripped off

in 1927 Chicago. Theatre Royal, Haymarket SW1 (01-930 8820), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

★ OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD: Triple

award-winning play by Timberlake

Wentworth, set in New South

Wales 200 years ago where a

convict is ordered to become

gentleman. Chichester Theatre, Chichester Rd, E2 (01-570 6100), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

★ THE PRICE: Welcome

revel of Arthur Miller's fine

play where two brothers

discover their dead father's

character and their own. Old

Swan Theatre, London SW1 (01-930 8820), Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, Sun 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.50-£15.50. (0)

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Voyage into the unknown

Peter Waymark

Horizon: Encounter With Neptune (BBC2, 8.10pm) is the second of two programmes on what the American Voyager II spacecraft discovered on its mission to the outer solar system. Fisher Diller's film concentrates on the final targets, the planet Neptune and its collection of moons. The largest moon, Triton, was expected to spring a few surprises and the team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Los Angeles was not disappointed. To the scientifically ignorant it is astonishing that anything resembling a picture can be picked up three billion miles from Earth, but such wonders are simply taken for granted. Almost as remarkable is the ability of scientists to make sense of what to most of us are no more than smudges and blurs. But that of course is what they are for and from this unexceptional looking data much gold is sifted. Using helpful graphics and animations to bang the points home, the scientists enthuse over Voyager II's findings. One of the most startling, though from the photographs you would hardly guess it, is that Triton has huge and spectacular geysers many times as big as those of the Yellowstone National Park. Triton is also exceedingly cold, though Voyager II has exploded the myth that coldness means inactivity and death. As music by Shostakovich comes on the sound-track, Dr Larry Soderblom says the lesson is that "the universe is far more beautiful, complex and interesting than we ever imagined". Meanwhile, Voyager II carries on. Though it will run out of power early in the next century, it is due to encounter Saturn, the dog star, sometime in the year 2936. No doubt Horizon will be on hand to tell all.



Nine-year-old Sarah: failed to receive prompt medical attention (ITV, 8.30pm)

Focusing on the case of Sarah, a nine-year-old girl knocked down crossing a busy street on her way to school, World in Action (ITV, 8.30pm) argues that the system for dealing with seriously injured patients is failing. Though she was rushed to hospital, Sarah did not receive immediate attention, and it was an hour before the first consultant surgeon was available. The hospital lacked vital surgical equipment. For two hours surgeons fought for her life. Sarah's experience is used to examine the claim (which sounds incredible) that between 3,000 and 5,000 deaths a year could be avoided if procedures for dealing with major trauma were improved.

BBC 1

6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Kirsty Wark and Nicholas Wright. With regular news headlines, business reports, including Business Breakfast live from Moscow, with Fiona Foster and Paul Burdett, sports bulletins, regional news; weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers.

6.55 Regional news and weather

9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on the weekend's television programmes.

9.20 Kirsty Wark. Kirsty chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject

10.00 News and weather followed by The Flintstone Comedy Show

10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Eamonn Holmes, begins with a 10.50 Rovers (10.55 Five to Eleven, Catherine Giller with a reading)

11.00 News and weather followed by Eamonn Holmes. Eamonn and Kirsty are joined by Paul Berrill, the director and cameraman behind the successful Rescue series, made by Scottish Television

12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live, magazine series presented by Sue Cook and Andy Craig. 12.55 Regional news and weather

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather

1.30 Neighbours. Henry arrives home from Brisbane, but when he tries to avoid answering questions about Scott and Charlene, it raises doubts about their marriage. Mike confirms Jessica's father on the subject of child abuse. (Coast)

1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly with another round of the European general knowledge quiz

2.15 Inside the Professions. A colleague's life is in danger when the wheelchair-bound detective uncovers a syndicate that specializes in credit card thefts (ITV)

3.05 Radio Times Holiday (ITV) Competition presented by Anne Gregg and Eamonn Holmes

3.25 Bazaar. Lifestyle magazine show presented by Janice Long. Includes Gwyneth Dover with a heart-shaped lovers' pie recipe

3.50 Two by Two. Jenny Powell's wildlife series (ITV) 4.05 Superfeds. 4.20 Jackson. Michael Williams with part one of Alison Prince's How's Business 4.35 BraveStarr. Animated science fiction adventures

4.55 Newsnight. 5.05 Blue Peter. With Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and a new presenter, Diane Louise Jordan. (Coast)

5.25 Neighbours (ITV) (Coast)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Stewart and Michael Stuart. Weather

6.30 Newsnight South East

7.00 Woman. Among the guests tonight are Linda Ronstadt, Daryl Hannah and Robert Herling

7.30 Masterchef. The Unfinished Playbook. When Mac and Polly return from their honeymoon, finding enough time to share leisure activities together gives rise to their first altercation. Starring Gordon McRaney and Shanna Ross

8.00 Blankety Blank. Les Dawson is joined by Henry Cooper, Carol Keating, Ella Lane, Dave Lee Travis, Jeff Sawyers and Mollie Sugden. (Coast)

8.30 Southwark. Tale of a Plague. A documentary about Africa's three year longest plague - the worst for three decades. (Coast)

8.55 News. Regional news and weather

9.30 Panorama. The Weather of Persepolis. After a month's stay, Gavin Hewitt reports from Larvengrad on the city's growing crime rate and the need to carry a passport to buy food. Can President Gorbachev survive the crisis caused by these blaring perestroika for the social and economic unrest and others wanting more reform including a multi-party system?

10.10 International Snooker. David Ikin presents coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament from the Wembley Conference Centre. Tonight, highlights of the best-of-nine-frames match between Jimmy White v John Virgo.

11.30 News. Regional news and weather

12.00 News

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning London. With Richard Kays and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 After Nine includes advice on recognizing dyslexia in children

9.25 Lucky Ladies. Word game hosted by Lennie Bennett 9.55 Thames News and weather

10.00 The Time... The Place... A discussion on topical subject chaired by Anne Diamond

10.40 The Mole. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on astrology, gardening fashion, teaching babies to swim and Jan Leaning's guide to popular crafts. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather

12.10 Playbox presented by Pat Coombe, Keith Chegwin and Marcus Clarke 12.30 Home and Away. Neville and Floss are taken aback by Colin's new mum

1.00 News at One. John Suchet. Weather 1.30 Thames News and weather 1.30 Gardening Time. A look at indoor plants

1.40 Films On the Picket (1981, b/w) starring Alfred Lynch, Sean Connery and Cecil Parker. Two petty criminals have fun in the RAF and return to civilian life only to find they are mistaken for spies and heroes. Directed by Cyril Frankel

3.25 Thames News and weather

3.30 The Young Doctors. Michael Williams with the voices of Tony Richardson and Goliath

4.05 The Reggys. Dicks (ITV) 4.15 The Real Ghostbusters. Cartoon adventures (ITV)

4.40 News. As Ben fights for his life, Keely wonders whether she's going to have a child of her own

5.10 Who's the Boss? American comedy series

5.40 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather

6.00 Home and Away (ITV)

6.25 Thames News and weather

7.00 Wish You Were Here... The team turn the attention to holidays in Britain in tonight's programme. Judith Chalmers visits Oman in Scotland, John Carter reports from Torbay, the "English Riviera", and Amanda Rice shares the delights of Tenby in South Wales. (ITV)

7.30 Coronation Street. Derek is faced with the difficult choice between continuing to work and asking Victor Pendlebury for a job. (ITV)

8.00 Strike It Lucky. Michael Barrymore hosts the general knowledge quiz

8.30 World in Action. (See Choice)

9.00 Making News: Line of Fire. More drama with the reporters working at TNC. The News Channel. Polheim describes the funeral of ex-boxer Benny Macdonald, while Sam Courtney is sent to look into an abortive attack on a British army base in West Germany, a story which will be a prelude to TNC to drop. (ITV)

10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. Weather

10.30 Thames News and weather

10.55 News. Weather

11.30 The Twilight Zone: The Call. A lonely man dials a wrong number, only to be connected to the perfect woman who says she loves him

12.00 News

12.30 News

1.00 Sportsweek Extra. Tony Francis presents highlights of the WBC Continental American light-heavyweight title fight between Dennis Andries and Candelario Silva

3.00 News headlines followed by Film: Exit Deed Dead (1980) starring Deniro, Julia Roberts and Arturo Lopez. A Mexican's journey of the underworld from a hold up in which a fellow rider and a transient employee are killed. He takes a young girl hostage, but has not bargained for the fact that his mistress medical attention. Directed by Francisco Lopez

4.00 News headlines followed by 60 Minutes. Interviews and investigations from the United States

5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

7.10 Open University: The Enlightenment - Freedom and Plenty

8.00 News. 8.15 The News. Presented by Peter Mayne

8.30 Coast. 9.00 Daytime on Two: computerizing an office 9.25 Spanish for beginners 9.40 Conflict within the family 10.00 For the very young 10.15 Music time 10.40 Working as a sales assistant and in the hair and beauty business 11.00 The Odyssey 11.20 How the glass pyramid of the Louvre is cleaned 11.40 Various ways to make use of music 12.00 Science for the young 12.15 Business in 1920s America 12.25 The battle against drug abuse 1.00 The science of fuels 1.25 The Power of the Rain 1.40 The Power of the Rain

2.00 News and weather followed by a learning to read series (ITV) 2.15 Songs of Praise from Senftenberg (ITV) 2.50 Behind the Screen. Ben Elton talks about his new series

3.00 News and weather followed by International Snooker. Coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters. David Ikin presents highlights of the morning's game between Dean Reynolds and James Wattana, and coverage of Cliff Thorburn v Doug Mountjoy. Includes, at 3.50, News, regional news and weather

6.40 DEF II begins with Smeb TV. With the Happy Mondays, Shaun Ryder, Doherty, Chaz, NME, Revenge and the Fall 7.10 The A to Z of Ballet. Canadian rock star Doug Cameron is questioned about his belief in the Satan 1 faith

7.40 Walker. A comedy series. Walk, Gunnerside to Danby Wicks (ITV)

8.10 Horizon: Encounter with Neptune. (Coast) (See Choice)

8.00 Film: The 400 Blows (1959) starring Jean-Pierre L  aud. A made-for-television drama about a young woman teacher who is raped at gun-point by her date, a young lawyer. Dissatisfied with the treatment she receives from the law and the church, she decides to take matters into her own hands and buys a gun. Directed by Tony Richardson

10.30 Newsnight

11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine

11.55 Weather

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily

6.25 Streets. Consumer magazine

12.00 Streets. Consumer magazine

12.30 Streets. Consumer magazine

1.00 Streets. Consumer magazine

2.00 IT for the Terrified. Information technology series (ITV)

2.30 Film: Father Brown (1954 b/w), starring Alec Guinness. Comedy-thriller, based on the G. K. Chesterton character, about an amateur detective priest who discovers that a master criminal intends to steal a priceless cross. Directed by Robert Hamer

4.05 Film: Desert Days (1935, b/w) starring Raymond Hatter. An insurance agent investigates the accidental death of a client. Directed by George B. Seitz

4.30 Countdown

5.00 The Late Late Show presented by Ray Byrne

6.00 Sunset. A new series begins with a report on disability matters in the Soviet Union

6.30 Happy Days. American comedy 7.00 Chump. A comedy with Jon Snow and Zakaria Badawi

7.50 Comedy followed by Weather. 8.00 Brookside. Sheila is surprised by Sean's response to her offer of help. (ITV)

8.30 Desmond's Old de Front Page. Again. The siege continues at Desmond's barbershop. (ITV)

9.00 Soviet Spies. Do You Hear Us? The Wall. Russia's invisible wall of bureaucracy continues to threaten Gorbachev's perestroika. Tonight's documentary focuses on three people who are fighting against it

10.00 St Elsewhere. Request for a Heavyweight. Axelrod suffers a major heart attack. Ellen breaks up with Gideon and Rosenthal's family join her in a therapy session for her drug dependence

11.00 Four Minutes. Doug Platt, by Joe Cornish

11.05 Film: The Return (1988) starring Tony Gatlif. The story of 24 hours in the life of a working-class Irishman in London. Directed by Phil Mulloy

12.45 News. Two video works - At Sea on TV and Why Do Things Get in a Muddle? (ITV) Ends at 1.50

SATELLITE

SKY CHANNEL

5.00am International Business Report

5.30am International Business Channel 6.00 DJ

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Muslims turn down Rushdie appeal for reconciliation

By Jamie Dettmer

Muslim leaders orchestrating the agitation in Britain against the novel *The Satanic Verses* yesterday warned that Salman Rushdie's public defence in a Sunday newspaper of the controversial book would only inflame Muslim anger.

Mr Rushdie, who has been in hiding for almost a year, yesterday appealed for "ordinary, decent, fair-minded Muslims" to reconsider his book. Breaking his year-long silence on the novel and the agitation, he said he hoped that "the way forward might be found through mutual recognition of mutual pain".

But Mr Liaquat Hussain, the general secretary of the Bradford Council of Mosques, which has led the campaign in this country to get the book withdrawn by its publishers, said: "How can there be any talk of reconciliation and mutual pain? Mr Rushdie has suffered no pain, it is Muslims who have lost their lives and suffered injuries."

He accused Mr Rushdie of being "arrogant and ignorant" over the book and called on him to come out of hiding and defend *The Satanic Verses* in person "even if that means losing his life".

A paperback edition of the novel, which Mr Rushdie supports, would be a "further incitement to Muslim sensibilities" and could provoke violent protests.

Mr Sher Azam, president of the Bradford Council of Mosques, said the article had done nothing to pacify millions of Muslims insulted by the book. "As long as the book continues to be published the damage is going to be caused."

There will be disappointment among Mr Rushdie's literary friends that Bradford Muslim leaders have been so quick to spurn pleas of conciliation. They hope that moderate Muslims may be more inclined after Mr Rushdie's article to make clear their disapproval of the more extreme elements calling for the

worldwide ban of *The Satanic Verses*.

Mr Rushdie has been in hiding since the late Ayatollah Khomeini issued a *fatwa*, an edict, demanding his death for blasphemy against Islam.

Another Muslim leader, Sayed Abdul Qudus, president of the al-Mujahid movement, said there could be no lifting of Khomeini's death sentence on Mr Rushdie. "The death sentence still exists on Salman Rushdie. It has been passed by Islamic law."

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Director of Public Prosecutions defended the decision last year not to prosecute another Muslim leader, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, for seeking Mr Rushdie's death.

In a 7,000-word article in *The Independent on Sunday*, Mr Rushdie criticized the DPP's decision not to prosecute Dr Siddiqui. He wrote: "If someone is seen on national television calling for another person's death and leading 300 other people in a chant of death, I would like to ask: if that's not sufficient evidence, what is?"

"As a layman I find it puzzling, and as the object of the attack I find it upsetting that it's seen to be all right for people to go around the country calling for my death."

In his complex article, Mr Rushdie said he had re-read his novel. "I honestly believe there isn't a sentence I can't justify. I'm happy to go through the book with anyone and talk about any page: that's an open offer. But it's difficult for such discussion to take place in an atmosphere of violence," Mr Rushdie says the novel is fiction, not a historical work.

Cartoon Koran: A cartoon version of the Koran, condemned as blasphemous by Muslim leaders in Europe and the Middle East, is to go on sale in Britain. Muslims in Britain warned that the book would cause as much protest as *The Satanic Verses*.

6 Israelis die in attack

Cairo (Reuters) - Masked gunmen killed six Israelis and wounded seven yesterday when they attacked a tourist bus near Cairo with machine-guns and grenades, police said.

Egyptian police said masked men fired at the bus carrying 30 people. They said the dead and wounded were taken to hospital in the Cairo suburb of Helwan.

In Jerusalem, Israeli military sources said grenades

were also used in the attack on the bus near Ismailiya about 40 miles from Cairo.

An Israeli radio reporter in Cairo said he had driven past the bus but police had not allowed his vehicle to stop. He saw injured people beside the bus which was lying on its side with shattered windows.

The bus was travelling from Rafah in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip to Cairo when it was attacked.

Princely send-off for round-the-world sailors



The 23 competing yachts, accompanied by an estimated 6,000 spectator craft, pass through Rangitoto Channel, off Auckland Harbour, at the weekend for the start of the fourth stage of the Whitbread Round the World race. A frigate carrying Prince Philip, the race's patron, fired a gun to send them on their 6,255-mile journey to Punta del Este, Uruguay. Race report, page 43.

Rail fare increases

Commuters facing 15% rise

Continued from page 1
season ticket holders, they pay 40 per cent of the normal cost of the journey and they are occupying seats at peak times.

"That is why their fares have gone up by 15 per cent this year, considerably more than other increases."

Underground and BR was the worst of all worlds.

They were suffering from "privatization blight", which was "disastrous", and the Government should either sell them off or make available the billions needed to run them properly.

Rail watchdog groups in the Midlands and the North said the delay in introducing Sprinter trains would add to the misery of travellers. The fleet of 425 Sprinter trains, already 40 weeks overdue, would not be in service until summer next year, design problems were blamed for the delay.

Mr Bob Fenton, of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, said: "We had no idea it would be that long. The new stock is desperately needed."

FARE PRICES

InterCity annual season ticket commutator fares to London rose by 15 per cent yesterday.

Town	Fare increase
Bath	£3,416 £4,444
Birmingham	£2,820 £3,545
Cardiff	£2,428 £3,034
Cowbridge	£2,200 £2,730
Gloucester	£3,528 £4,460
Grantham	£3,168 £3,942
Leamington	£2,308 £2,858
Leicester	£3,444 £4,366
Nottingham	£3,004 £3,755
Peterborough	£2,756 £3,460
Reading	£1,712 £2,166
Swindon	£3,000 £3,750

Mellor signals change on 'top bids only' for ITV franchises

Continued from page 1
discretionary powers, but the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the Independent Television Association and other lobbying groups all insist the present drafting would not allow the quality of programmes to qualify as an exceptional circumstance.

The clause, 17.3, is due to be debated by a Commons committee this week and, significantly, Mr Mellor said if he was persuaded it was deficient he would try and persuade Mrs Thatcher and Cabinet colleagues to alter the Bill.

The key question was "what is the best form of words to ensure that where a quality bid is clearly and obviously better, the ITC would be entitled under those circumstances, to exercise their discretion in

favour". The difficulty likely to face Mrs Thatcher is finding a form of words for the Bill granting the ITC manageable and sensible discretionary powers without returning to the previous subjective selection process used by the IBA for awarding franchises.

Mr Mellor's comments in a David Frost TV-am interview were described by the ITV Association (ITVA) and the Campaign for Quality Television as marking a significant shift in government philosophy.

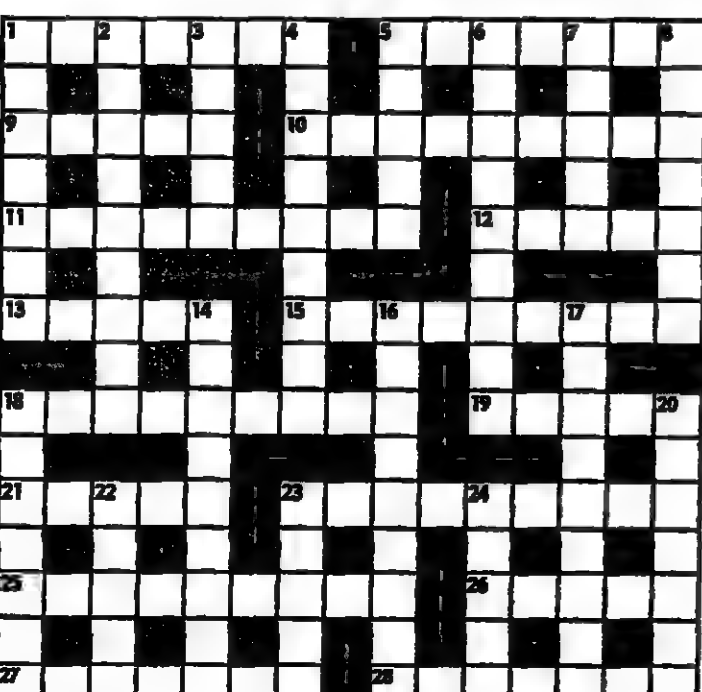
Mr Richard Dunn, ITVA chairman, said: "We are in favour of competitive tendering but at the final decision point quality should be weighed in the balance as much as money. If that is also the Government's intention, which we now hear from the

minister it clearly is, the Bill needs clarifying."

Mr Simon Albury, director of the Campaign for Quality Television, said the Government appeared to be laying greater emphasis on choice and quality alongside competition. With several Conservative backbench MPs uneasy about the present definition of clause 17.3 it is likely that Mr Mellor will try to persuade the Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues to redefine "exceptional circumstances" to take account of high quality programming, or introduce a new clause.

He said: "What I think we want to avoid is going back to what some people regard as the bad old days of just half a dozen well intentioned people in the IBA sitting round on a sofa deciding who gets what."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,209



- ACROSS**
- Game horsemen (7).
 - He's supposed to send youngsters off (7).
 - Harry turned on the Spanish music-maker (5).
 - Protective wear in a crate got in a bad state (9).
 - The man investigating a painted lady, say, carrying money - gold (9).
 - Religious figure writing letters to a Greek (5).
 - Grain ground for King George I (5).
 - Mundane outer covering taken from big soft present (9).
 - Caught on the way to get 25 (9).
 - Having the right, one went ahead with some irritation (5).
 - The minister losing his head and giving offence (5).
 - Stops open trouble - or just holds off for the time being (9).
 - Making notes to phone about the 18 (9).
 - Few in drink are quick (5).
- DOWN**
- Answer for ships' officers in the customary procedure (7).
 - The touch-line (7).
 - Topking complaint, even with a top man around (7).
 - Drinking one's gin and it perhaps (9).
 - A lot of people are to be seen in no matter which order (5).
 - He'll want to look around these rigs in need of repair (9).
 - Downright woman presented to Her Majesty (5).
 - Basic material for 9 or Janus? (9).
 - Low soldiers' poet (5).
 - A fertilizer can put up value (7).
 - Totally lacking point, botanically (9).
 - Give short change in error (9).
 - "With sweet musk-roses, and with..." (M.N. Dream) (9).
 - One using a credit card to get a horse? (7).
 - Underworld boss dispatched for failure to agree (7).
 - Took notice, didn't retire (3,2).
 - Go on following political leader displaying arrogance (5).
 - Mountain-climbing - popular, that's quite obvious (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,208 will appear next Saturday

The number of letters in clue 33 across in the Jubilee Crossword was incorrectly given in some editions on Saturday. The clue should have read: Proverbial reason for an evening out (4,3,2,3,3,3,4,2,3,1,1).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ESTOC**
a. Check at French chess
b. A short sword
c. A high collar
- CISELURE**
a. The art of chasing
b. A fish trap
c. A turning leap at ballet
- FILCH**
a. To partition surreptitiously
b. A small fish
c. A baby coat
- KENNET**
a. A small hunting dog
b. To scout ahead
c. A wicker

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE traffic roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
West Country 737
Wales 738
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 50p for a second (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Coarse Crossword, page 22

WEATHER

It will be very windy in all areas, with severe gales in much of the north and west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with rain. It will also be cloudy over England and Wales although there will be some brighter spells in the more sheltered parts of eastern England. South-west England, south and west Wales and parts of northern England will have drizzle and hill fog. Outlook: Less windy but changeable.

ABROAD

MIDDAY	1-thunder	2-thunder	3-thunder	4-thunder	5-thunder	6-thunder	7-thunder	8-thunder	9-thunder	10-thunder	11-thunder	12-thunder	13-thunder	14-thunder	15-thunder	16-thunder	17-thunder	18-thunder	19-thunder	20-thunder	21-thunder	22-thunder	23-thunder	24-thunder	25-thunder	26-thunder	27-thunder	28-thunder	29-thunder	30-thunder	31-thunder	32-thunder	33-thunder	34-thunder	35-thunder	36-thunder	37-thunder	38-thunder	39-thunder	40-thunder	41-thunder	42-thunder	43-thunder	44-thunder	45-thunder	46-thunder	47-thunder	48-thunder	49-thunder	50-thunder	51-thunder	52-thunder	53-thunder	54-thunder	55-thunder	56-thunder	57-thunder	58-thunder	59-thunder	60-thunder	61-thunder	62-thunder	63-thunder	64-thunder	65-thunder	66-thunder	67-thunder	68-thunder	69-thunder	70-thunder	71-thunder	72-thunder	73-thunder	74-thunder	75-thunder	76-thunder	77-thunder	78-thunder	79-thunder	80-thunder	81-thunder	82-thunder	83-thunder	84-thunder	85-thunder	86-thunder	87-thunder	88-thunder	89-thunder	90-thunder	91-thunder	92-thunder	93-thunder	94-thunder	95-thunder	96-thunder	97-thunder	98-thunder	99-thunder	100-thunder	101-thunder	102-thunder	103-thunder	104-thunder	105-thunder	106-thunder	107-thunder	108-thunder	109-thunder	110-thunder	111-thunder	112-thunder	113-thunder	114-thunder	115-thunder	116-thunder	117-thunder	118-thunder	119-thunder	120-thunder	121-thunder	122-thunder	123-thunder	124-thunder	125-thunder	126-thunder	127-thunder	128-thunder	129-thunder	130-thunder	131-thunder	132-thunder	133-thunder	134-thunder	135-thunder	136-thunder	137-thunder	138-thunder	139-thunder	140-thunder	141-thunder	142-thunder	143-thunder	144-thunder	145-thunder	146-thunder	147-thunder	148-thunder	149-thunder	150-thunder	151-thunder	152-thunder	153-thunder	154-thunder	155-thunder	156-thunder	157-thunder	158-thunder	159-thunder	160-thunder	161-thunder	162-thunder	163-thunder	164-thunder	165-thunder	166-thunder	167-thunder	168-thunder	169-thunder	170-thunder	171-thunder	172-thunder	173-thunder	174-thunder	175-thunder	176-thunder	177-thunder	178-thunder	179-thunder	180-thunder	181-thunder	182-thunder	183-thunder	184-thunder	185-thunder	186-thunder	187-thunder	188-thunder	189-thunder	190-thunder	191-thunder	192-thunder	193-thunder	194-thunder	195-thunder	196-thunder	197-thunder	198-thunder	199-thunder	200-thunder	201-thunder	202-thunder	203-thunder	204-thunder	205-thunder	206-thunder	207-thunder	208-thunder	209-thunder	210-thunder	211-thunder	212-thunder	213-thunder	214-thunder	215-thunder	216-thunder	217-thunder	218-thunder	219-thunder	220-thunder	221-thunder	222-thunder	223-thunder	224-thunder	225-thunder	226-thunder	227-thunder	228-thunder	229-thunder	230-thunder	231-thunder	232-thunder	233-thunder	234-thunder	235-thunder	236-thunder	237-thunder	238-thunder	239-thunder	240-thunder	241-thunder	242-thunder	243-thunder	244-thunder	245-thunder	246-thunder	247-thunder	248-thunder	249-thunder	250-thunder	251-thunder	252-thunder	253-thunder	254-thunder	255-thunder	256-thunder	257-thunder	258-thunder	259-thunder	260-thunder	261-thunder	262-thunder	263-thunder	264-thunder	265-thunder	266-thunder	267-thunder	268-thunder	269-thunder	270-thunder	271-thunder	272-thunder	273-thunder	274-thunder	275-thunder	276-thunder	277-thunder	278-thunder	279-thunder	280-thunder	281-thunder	282-thunder	283-thunder	284-thunder	285-thunder	286-thunder	287-thunder	288-thunder	289-thunder	290-thunder	291-thunder	292-thunder	293-thunder	294-thunder	295-thunder	296-thunder	297-thunder	298-thunder	299-thunder	300-thunder	301-thunder	302-thunder	303-thunder	304-thunder	305-thunder	306-thunder	307-thunder	308-thunder	309-thunder	310-thunder	311-thunder	312-thunder	313-thunder	314-thunder	315-thunder	316-thunder	317-thunder	318-thunder	319-thunder	320-thunder	321-thunder	322-thunder	323-thunder	324-thunder	325-thunder	326-thunder	327-thunder	328-thunder	329-thunder	330-thunder	331-thunder	332-thunder	333-thunder	334-thunder	335-thunder	336-thunder	337-thunder	338-thunder	339-thunder	340-thunder	341-thunder	342-thunder	343-thunder	344-thunder	345-thunder	346-thunder	347-thunder	348-thunder	349-thunder	350-thunder	351-thunder	352-thunder	353-thunder	354-thunder	355-thunder	356-thunder	357-thunder	358-thunder	359-thunder	360-thunder	361-thunder	362-thunder	363-thunder	364-thunder	365-thunder	366-thunder	367-thunder	368-thunder	369-thunder	370-thunder	371-thunder	372-thunder	373-thunder	374-thunder	375-thunder	376-thunder	377-thunder	378-thunder	379-thunder	380-thunder	381-thunder	382-thunder	383-thunder	384-thunder	385-thunder	386-thunder	387-thunder	388-thunder	389-thunder	390-thunder	391-thunder	392-thunder	393-thunder	394-thunder	395-thunder	396-thunder	397-thunder	398-thunder	399-thunder	400-thunder	401-thunder	402-thunder	403-thunder	404-thunder	405-thunder	406-thunder	407-thunder	408-thunder	409-thunder	410-thunder	411-thunder	412-thunder	413-thunder	414-thunder	415-thunder	416-thunder	417-thunder	418-thunder	419-thunder	420-thunder	421-thunder	422-thunder	423-thunder	424-thunder	425-thunder	426-thunder	427-thunder	428-thunder	429-thunder	430-thunder	431-thunder	432-thunder	433-thunder	434-thunder	435-thunder	436-thunder	437-thunder	438-thunder	439-thunder	440-thunder	441-thunder	442-thunder	443-thunder	444-thunder	445-thunder	446-thunder	447-thunder	448-thunder	449-thunder	450-thunder	451-thunder	452-thunder	453-thunder	454-thunder	455-thunder	456-thunder	457-thunder	458-thunder	459-thunder	460-thunder	461-thunder	462-thunder	463-thunder	464-thunder	465-thunder	466-thunder	467-thunder	468-thunder	469-thunder	470-thunder	471-thunder	472-thunder	473-thunder	474-thunder	475-thunder	476-thunder	477-thunder	478-thunder	479-thunder	480-thunder	481-thunder	482-thunder	483-thunder	484-thunder	485-thunder	486-thunder	487-thunder	488-thunder	489-thunder	490-thunder	491-thunder	492-thunder	493-thunder	494-thunder	495-thunder	496-thunder	497-thunder	498-thunder	499-thunder	500-thunder	501-thunder	502-thunder	503-thunder	504-thunder	505-thunder	506-thunder	507-thunder	508-thunder	509-thunder	510-thunder	511-thunder	512-thunder	513-thunder	514-thunder	515-thunder	516-thunder	517-thunder	518-thunder	519-thunder	520-thunder	521-thunder	522-thunder	523-thunder	524-thunder	525-thunder	526-thunder	527-thunder	528-thunder	529-thunder	530-thunder	531-thunder	532-thunder	533-thunder	534-thunder	535-thunder	536-thunder	537-thunder	538-thunder	539-thunder	540-thunder	541-thunder	542-thunder	543-thunder	544-thunder	545-thunder	546-thunder	547-thunder	548-thunder	549-thunder	550-thunder	551-thunder	552-thunder	553-thunder	554-thunder	555-thunder	556-thunder	557-thunder	558-thunder	559-thunder	560-thunder	561-thunder	562-thunder	563-thunder	564-thunder	565-thunder	566-thunder	567-thunder	568-thunder	569-thunder	570-thunder	571-thunder	572-thunder	573-thunder	574-thunder	575-thunder	576-thunder	577-thunder	578-thunder	579-thunder	580-thunder	581-thunder	582-thunder	583-thunder	584-thunder	585-thunder	586-thunder	587-thunder	588-thunder	589-thunder	590-thunder	591-thunder	592-thunder	593-thunder	594-thunder	595-thunder	596-thunder	597-thunder	598-thunder	599-thunder	600-thunder	601-thunder	602-thunder	603-thunder	604-thunder	605-thunder	606-thunder	607-thunder	608-thunder	609-thunder	610-thunder	611-thunder	612-thunder	613-thunder	614-thunder	615-thunder	616-thunder	617-thunder	618-thunder	619-thunder	620-thunder	621-thunder	622-thunder	623-thunder	624-thunder	625-thunder	626-thunder	627-thunder	628-thunder	629-thunder	630-thunder	631-thunder	632-thunder	633-thunder	634-thunder	635-thunder	636-thunder	637-thunder	638-thunder	639-thunder	640-thunder	641-thunder	642-thunder	643-thunder	644-thunder	645-thunder	646-thunder	647-thunder	648-thunder	649-thunder	650-thunder	651-thunder	652-thunder	653-thunder	654-thunder	655-thunder	656-thunder	657-thunder	658-thunder	659-thunder	660-thunder	661-thunder	662-thunder	663-thunder	664-thunder	665-thunder	666-thunder	667-thunder	668-thunder	669-thunder	670-thunder	671-thunder	672-thunder	673-thunder	674-thunder	675-thunder	676-thunder	677-thunder	678-thunder	679-thunder	680-thunder	681-thunder	682-thunder	683-thunder	684-thunder	685-thunder	686-thunder	687-thunder	688-thunder	689-thunder	690-thunder	691-thunder	692-thunder	693-thunder	694-thunder	695-thunder	696-thunder	697-thunder	698-thunder	699-thunder	700-thunder	701-thunder	702-thunder	703-thunder	704-thunder	705-thunder	706-thunder	707-thunder	708-thunder	709-thunder	710-thunder	711-thunder	712-thunder	713-thunder	714-thunder	715-thunder	716-thunder	717-thunder	718-thunder	719-thunder	720-thunder	721-thunder	722-thunder	723-thunder	724-thunder	725-thunder	726-thunder	727-thunder	728-thunder	729-thunder	730-thunder	731-thunder	732-thunder	733-thunder	734-thunder	735-thunder	736-thunder	737-thunder	738-thunder	739-thunder	740-thunder	741-thunder	742-thunder	743-thunder	744-thunder	745-thunder	746-thunder	747-thunder	748-thunder	749-thunder	750-thunder	751-thunder	752-thunder	753-thunder	754-thunder	755-thunder	756-thunder	757-thunder	758-thunder	759-thunder	760-thunder	761-thunder	762-thunder	763-thunder	764-thunder	765-thunder	766-thunder	767-thunder	768-thunder	769-thunder	770-thunder	771-thunder	772-thunder	773-thunder	774-thunder	775-thunder	776-thunder	777-thunder	778-thunder	779-thunder	780-thunder	781-thunder	782-thunder	783-thunder	784-thunder	785-thunder	786-thunder	787-thunder	788-thunder	789-thunder	790-thunder	791-thunder	792-thunder	793-thunder	794-thunder	795-thunder	796-thunder	797-thunder	798-thunder	799-thunder	800-thunder	801-thunder	802-thunder	803-thunder	804-thunder	805-thunder	806-thunder	807-thunder	808-thunder	809-thunder	810-thunder	811-thunder	812-thunder	813-thunder	814-thunder	815-thunder	816-thunder	817-thunder	818-thunder	819-thunder	820-thunder	821-thunder	822-thunder	823-thunder	824-thunder	825-thunder	826-thunder	827-thunder	828-thunder	829-thunder	830-thunder	831-thunder	832-thunder	833-thunder	834-thunder	835-thunder	836-thunder	837-thunder	838-thunder	839-thunder	840-thunder	841-thunder	842-thund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TEMPUS

Banks steel themselves for write-offs

City punters are already lining up for the banks' reporting season sweepstakes, which begin on February 20 with National Westminster. There are so many accounting hazards on the course this year that the betting ranges far and wide.

The dominant feature in this fortnight of figures will be further Third World debt write-offs, which threaten to send two of the clearers into nine-figure losses.

Lloyds set the pace on this last November when it raised its provisions to 70 per cent. NatWest followed a day later with 65 per cent.

If the Midland and Barclays do likewise, then the big four will write off up to £4.5 billion in principal debt to the less-developed countries. There are signs, however, that both may decide to stick with a lower level of provisioning. The variations in forecasts reflect the analysts' guesswork.

Midland may simply not be able to afford to increase to the 70 per cent level, while Barclays' senior management has been suggesting it is more intent on reducing the debt by selling it on the secondary market than providing for it.

For the first time, the banks may go their separate ways in the treatment of a cure issue. There will be bad news on other write-off fronts. Interest payments from LDC countries have been becoming rare lately, with nothing from

VARYING BETS IN THE BANK PROFIT STAKES

	1989 pre-tax profit £m	1989 forecast (£m)	1989 forecast (£m)	1989 forecast (£m)
Barclays	1,391	924	868	1,290
Lloyds	952	-557	-693	-573
Midland	693	-506	-126	-191
NatWest	1,407	488	463	537

Argentina last year and the absence of a large payment from Brazil in the second half.

LDC interest provisions at Lloyds, for example, could rise 175 per cent to £146 million compared with 1988. Provisioning at home is also expected to rise sharply, thanks to the increase in company receiverships, particularly among leveraged buyouts.

Unfortunately, the banks' income does not look able to cover all the extra costs. Interest income has come under the twin pressures of interest-bearing current accounts and the slowdown in lending growth.

Neither will the banks' other businesses yield many bright spots since finance houses, credit card issuers and merchant banks have all felt the pressure of intense competition.

Pre-tax profit forecasts tend to average £900 million (£1,391 million) for Barclays, assuming it does increase its LDC cover to 70 per cent.

Lloyds should bring in a loss of £600 million (£952 million profit), while National Westminster could produce profits

of £500 million (£1,407 million).

Midland's loss, however, is forecast by analysts to be anything between £100 million and £1.1 billion depending on its provisions.

Bank shares have had a strong run of late, spurred on particularly by the bid speculation surrounding Standard Chartered and Midland. But if the figures are as poor as threatened, and accompanied by pessimistic statements, the re-rating could be stopped in its tracks.

Colonnade

Two decades after Laser-Scan's foundation by researchers from Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory, it is beginning to make decent profits. Set up to make laser scanners that turn maps into computer data, it was floated on the over-the-counter market in the US in 1982. But after being acquired for less than £2 million two years ago, Laser-Scan is now the sole remaining subsidiary of Intec, a USM-listed company controlled by British & Commonwealth.



Facing forecast loss of up to £1.1 billion: Sir Kit McMahon, chairman of Midland Bank.

Laser-Scan's sudden prosperity is of interest not only to holders of the 320 million Intec shares now in issue. It holds the key to the £8.2 million bid for Colonnade Development Capital, an investment trust also run by B&C. Colonnade is under pressure from the local authority pension funds that dominate its share register and

recent paying venture capital fees for management of a portfolio held mainly in cash. Mr Richard Weyill, a director of Colonnade, argues that the 163p-a-share bid launched by Stratagem, with local authority support, is too low, and this week it will unveil proposals aimed at returning the 200p book value of its portfolio to shareholders. The

bulk of this is accounted for by Colonnade's cash holdings of 143p a share, but 37p of the balance comes from its 16.5 per cent stake in Intec, taking Intec at the middle market price of 34p.

Intec's shares have risen from just 2p since the turn of the year and Colonnade's ability to deliver 200p to its shareholders will depend on

how realistic the near-doubled value of this stake proves to be. Fortunately, since Mr Brain Lacey arrived as chief executive of Intec 18 months ago, the company's prospects have been transformed.

Mr Lacey has stepped up Laser-Scan's drive into mapping software and overseen the disposal of Intec's original microfilm reader business.

Last year, software accounted for two-thirds of Laser-Scan's £7.5 million turnover and the company made profits of nearly £1 million in the year to December.

That performance goes some way to justify Intec's present market capitalization of £11 million and there have also been informal approaches from possible bidders. But while there have been a few broad hints, outside shareholders in Intec have not been told of the full extent of the company's recovery. They should not have to wait until the accounts are published in April to find out.

Saltire

Quayle Munro, the Edinburgh fund manager which runs East of Scotland Industrial Investments, may have found a new way to conjure up value to keep the traditional investment trust discount at bay.

ESII's £11.8 million bid for Saltire Insurance Investments values its Charlotte Square

neighbour at slightly higher than asset value with the help of a novel instrument that should be attractive to pension funds.

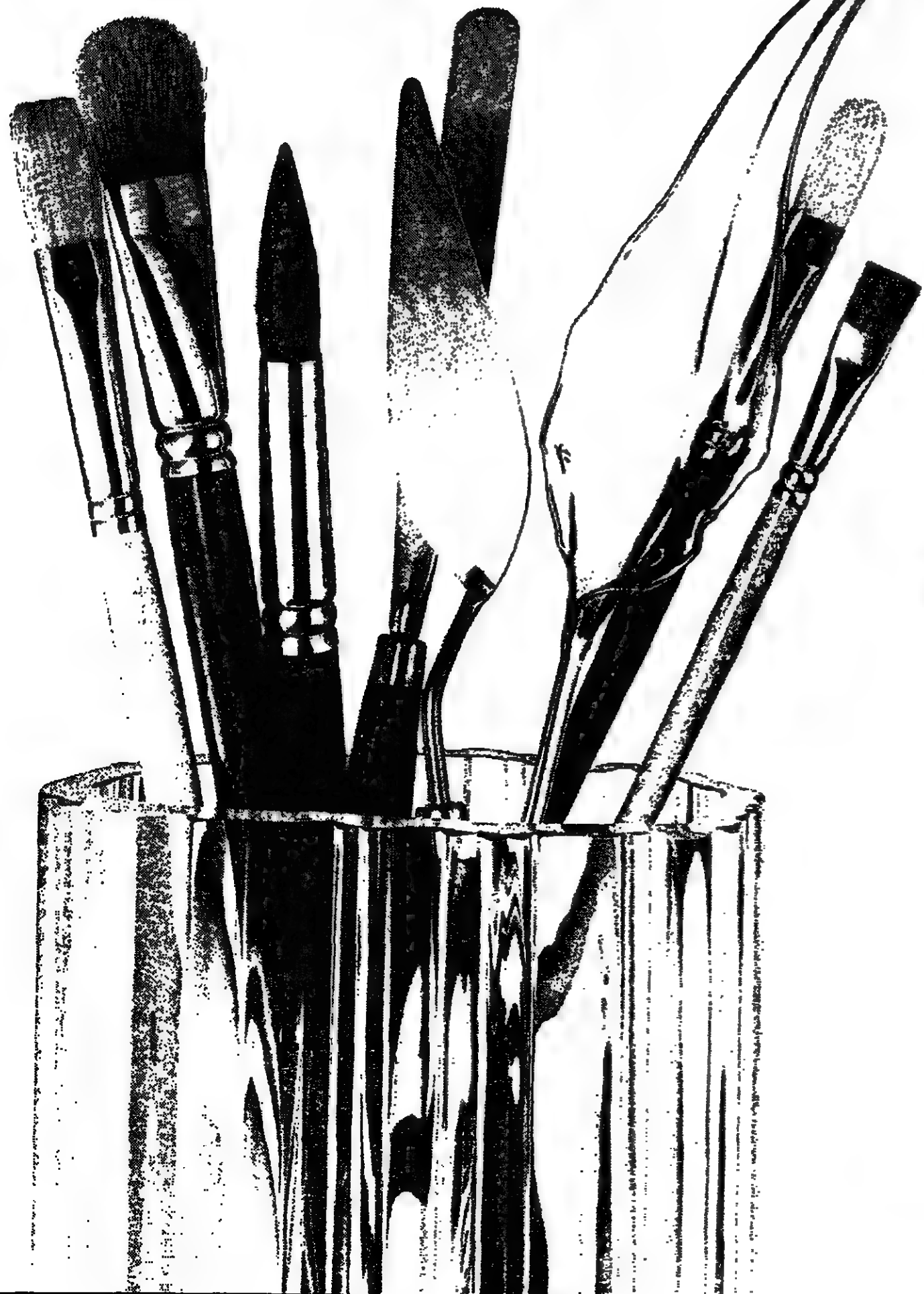
Of the 78p on the table, 49p is in cash and almost 20p is in conventional convertible preference shares with a 7.5 per cent coupon. The remaining 10p comes in redeemable preferred ordinary shares, and, most unusually, their redemption counts as a distribution for tax purposes, so that pension funds will be able to claim back tax on it.

ESII intends to redeem these shares at set intervals, at a level equivalent to asset backing once the tax has been reclaimed. After ESII itself has been floated this year, other holders of the RPO shares will be able to sell them to pension funds, which can make full use of the tax break. There may be some costs involved, but they are unlikely to be as great as the traditional investment trust discount.

One or two hurdles remain — not least the hostile attitude of the Saltire board — but the bid itself offers such an improvement on the 50p that Saltire holders could have obtained in the market beforehand that it must have a good chance of success.

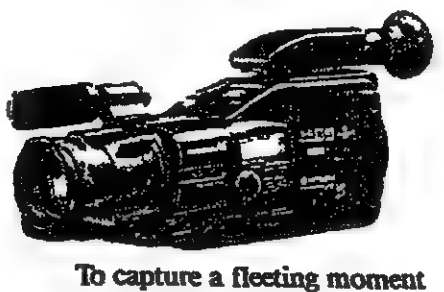
ESII's tax counsel is confident that the RPOs are watertight, and, if so, they could become a familiar weapon in the investment trust manager's armoury.

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GILT-EDGED

Major facing tough Budget balancing act

Despite signs that monetary policy is succeeding in reducing domestic demand pressures, underlying problems on the current account and inflation are set to persist.

Against the background of sluggish domestic demand, the supply-side of the economy is suffering. Output and productivity growth are falling while corporate profits are being squeezed. This environment is reducing investment intentions and will result in labour shedding.

Accumulating evidence of a slowdown in the economy will emerge this quarter. While this may point to scope for an easier policy stance, the economy will not be able to tolerate this without higher inflation.

The key to the movement of domestic inflation will be the movement of pay and earnings. Signs on this front have not been encouraging. Furthermore, historical analysis of pay settlements in the 1980s implies that average settlements are unlikely to decline by more than 1.5 percentage points over the course of any one pay round.

Thus, even on a fairly optimistic outlook, settlements would only fall to 8 per cent by mid-year. In view of this, only a large decline in wage drift (overtime and bonus payments) would prevent average earnings rising to 10 per cent by the summer.

This is unlikely, as estimates of wage drift produced from the CBI's manufacturing pay data bank suggest the contribution of wage drift to earnings growth is unlikely to fall below 1-1.5 percentage points. At its lowest over the 1980s, wage drift still added 1.4 per cent to growth in average earnings. Clearly average earnings have further room to advance.

The Chancellor's commitment to reducing inflation points to interest rates remaining high for some time. Furthermore, a tight fiscal policy in the Budget is required to help reduce domestic economic pressures. But, just as importantly, the Budget needs to address underlying economic imbalances.

Only if fiscal policy is successful in encouraging a rise in savings while giving incentives to industry to boost investment, can interest rates be cut. Even then it is likely that without some controls over bank lending, lower interest rates, with a deregulated financial environment, will allow consumer borrowing and credit growth to rise. In fact, any attempt to boost the econ-

omy over the next year and before an election could mean a greater inflation and current account problem.

The current account deficit remains an important long-term problem for the economy. The Government's surplus minus the private sector's deficit is identically equivalent to the deficit on the current account.

For the current account deficit to remain unchanged the private sector's deficit must be cut by an amount equal to any fall in the Budget surplus. More importantly, the current account deficit must be reduced to prevent a run on sterling.

This implies that the Government would have to announce a very tight fiscal policy, aimed at boosting the Budget surplus. Or the private sector would have to reduce its deficit sharply, entailing a cut in investment and stocks. Either way a recession would be likely.

Given this, it is clear the Chancellor has a difficult balancing act to perform. On the one hand, Mr Major will need to keep interest rates high and fiscal policy tight to counter rising inflationary pressures and a further deterioration in the current account deficit.

On the other hand, he will be keen to avoid a recession, which would seriously hit investment intentions and prevent a longer-term improvement in productivity and the current account.

Also, a recession would seriously undermine the Government's popularity. Ironically, if interest rates do not fall sharply before the next election, a political risk factor is set to re-emerge as a negative influence on sterling and gilts.

Against this background, cash remains the most attractive option. There will be little scope for short yields to fall.

Furthermore, yields at the long end are not yet high enough to take into consideration the risk factors involved. With real yields on long gilts standing at only 3.5 per cent, longer-term investors should be increasingly attracted to those available on harder currency European bond markets.

Real yields in Germany are 5.1 per cent, in France 6 per cent and in the Netherlands 7.3 per cent. Thus the short-term strength of sterling makes a switch into harder currency bond markets advantageous.

Gerard Lyons
Chief economist
DKB International

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Bond Corporation vows it will fight to bitter end

From David Tweed, Sydney

Bond Corporation, the besieged Australian flagship of Mr Alan Bond, will fight to the "bitter end" Mr Peter Lucas, a Bond Corporation director, said yesterday.

On Friday, in Australia, Bell Resources, a 58 per cent-owned Bond Corp subsidiary, applied to have its parent and several Bond companies wound up.

Mr Lucas said the Bond group, already fighting a bid by the National Australia Bank (NAB) to call in a

Aus\$385 million (£177 million) debt from Bond Media, was confident it could fend off the move by Bell Resources.

Bond Corp is now fighting winding up proceedings for its American brewing operations after US creditors, owed US\$35 million (£20.8 million) of debentures relating to the Swan Brewing business, petitioned the New York Federal Court to liquidate the US brewing assets.

This action was spurred by moves in the Western Australia

Supreme Court on Thursday which prevented debenture holders taking their receivership action in Australia.

The US lawyers said they believed the New York court had the power to wind up Bond Corporation in the US.

The main holding is the Heileman brewing operation which Bond Corporation bought in 1987 for US\$1.3 billion. Heileman is now worth considerably less.

Although operating results

have improved, it is losing money after interest.

Heileman is America's fifth largest brewer and has until now stayed out of the legal morass that has engulfed its Australian parent.

The United States attack on the Bond Corporation comes after a series of legal moves by creditors and lenders to the Bond Group all around the world to recoup their investments and loans.

Bond group debt is estimated at about Aus\$6 billion.

Olympus targets superstore league

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The Sears group may be wrestling with flagging shoe sales, with some outlets closing, but its Olympus subsidiary is riding the crest of a sports-goods boom and plans to grab a bigger share through a new generation of big edge-of-town stores.

Olympus sales, including sports footwear and clothing, were up 18 per cent in the first half. In the second half they have been even higher, says Mr Alan Vickers, chairman of Sears sports and leisure division. The sports equipment and clothing sector, already worth more than £2 billion a year in sales after 80 per cent growth since 1984, is likely to grow at least 10 per cent a year for the next four to five years, he adds.

The first edge-of-town store, Olympus Outdoor World, was opened at the West Thurrock, Essex, regional shopping centre last September. It is Britain's first sports superstore, covers 35,000 sq ft and, much like the do-it-yourself and other "sheds" springing up in edge-of-town centres, has easy access and ample parking.

It carries more than 20,000

stock options for 15 sports, from swimming and snorkelling to climbing and riding. Sports footwear can be tried out on a jogging machine, a skiing section offers fitting and servicing and there is a six-metre wall for climbers to sample equipment.

A second Outdoor World is to open in Dudley, in the West Midlands near Birmingham, in May. More are planned, with the target being up to 10 superstores around the country, sited in the bigger regional shopping centres.

Mr Vickers said: "Olympus, although market leader, has been in danger of becoming a series of sports-fashion boutiques. With Outdoor World, we are trying to build credibility — through the ample range, the extensive service and enthusiastic staff, who are specially trained."

At West Thurrock the fishing section is run by a well-respected master angler. Specialists for skiing were also called in.

Olympus's in-town chain, comprising 125 outlets, is expected to grow by another 25 this year. They will also carry Outdoor World catalogues.



Climb to the top: Vickers at Olympus Outdoor World, Essex

Lord Mayor seeks UAE 'task force'

By Colin Narborough



Sir Hugh Bidwell: recruiting

Sir Hugh Bidwell, Lord Mayor of London, is trying to assemble a "task force" of leading City people to help the United Arab Emirates boost Dubai's role as a financial centre.

The force would advise the UAE in many fields, from setting up and operating modern financial markets and infrastructure to developing local manufacturing and tourism.

During a four-day mayoral visit to the UAE last week, Sir Hugh found his hosts keen to create a regional economic

force resembling the "tiger" economies of the Pacific Rim.

As the world's leading international financial centre, he believes London is ideally equipped to provide the necessary expertise. Such co-operation could enhance opportunities in the Gulf for British exporters and help Britain catch up with Japan, the main importer to the UAE.

The UAE is Britain's second biggest market in the Arab world, but exports to the emirates declined in the late

1980s. Between January and October last year exports picked up to £457 million, nearly matching the figure for the whole of 1988.

Sir Hugh said the Government was keen to support the idea of a task force.

He found a fund of goodwill for British goods and services in the UAE and foresees this being translated into large-scale UAE investment, channelled through London, in the single European market and the emerging economies of Eastern Europe.

Anderson poised to take over at Ferranti

By Angela Mackay

Mr Eugene Anderson, former chief executive of Johnson Matthey, the precious metals refiner, said yesterday a decision should be made by Wednesday on whether he will take over as chairman and chief executive of Ferranti International.

Mr Anderson said he would be meeting lawyers and Ferranti today. His solicitors received draft heads of agreement for his proposed contract of employment on Friday.

Mr Anderson said the number one position at Ferranti would be a challenging job and he considered that the businesses left after the sale of Ferranti Defence Systems to GEC had a promising future. The remaining operations will have a turnover of about £600 million.

Sir Derek Alun-Jones is resigning to resign once the long-term future of the company is assured in some form. His resignation has been with the board for several months and will probably be exercised this month.

Mr Anderson appears cautious about unofficially committing himself to Ferranti in view of how rapidly the company's fortunes have been changing over the past six months, since the group discovered a £215 million hole in its assets allegedly caused by fake defence contracts.

Ferranti will this week announce a new financing package with the banks and confirm that it will not exercise a £187 million rights issue which was underwritten by its leading institutional investors.

Australia factor deal at Bank of Scotland

By Our City Staff

The Bank of Scotland has bought 70 per cent of Hallmark Credits, an Australian factoring company.

The bank is paying Aus\$3.5 million (£1.6 million) through Kellogg, its factoring company, and has won approval from the Australian Foreign Investments Review Board.

Hallmark is the result of a buyout of the former Mercantile Factors from the Australian Mercantile Credits and is the largest factoring company in Australia with offices in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Mr Ben Allen, the managing director of Kellogg, will take over the chairmanship.

Shivers in shade of the Forum beauty contest

ECONOMIC VIEW

RODNEY LORD in DAVOS

A bizarre form of beauty contest is taking place among the snow-covered peaks of Davos, the Swiss ski resort. Half the prime ministers of Eastern Europe are here to sweet-talk 800 top businessmen in town for the World Economic Forum into giving them the prize for the prettiest economic and political reforms.

The prize they are all looking for is to be named Miss World Investment 1990. Their presence is striking proof that however much people may be inclined to a way of life they quickly adapt to a change in the economic system.

One of the first on the catwalk was Leonid Abalkin, deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union. Dressed in an ill-fitting grey suit and sounding like the deputy assistant secretary of a declining trade union (few delegates would win a more conventional beauty contest), he gave the conference a brief taste of what it must be like to sit through a fortnight-long congress of people's deputies.

Even in Mr Abalkin's speech reality occasionally peeped through. In drawing up economic reforms in the Soviet Union, he said: "We did not want to make promises because people do not believe in promises any more."

In a surreal dialogue, Edward Heath, chairman of the session, asked in his most incredulous tones if the rouble really could be convertible in five years. Mr Abalkin replied full convertibility would take twice that time and the balance of pessimists and optimists on the subject is about even. What the USSR wants is "business-like relations" with the West which would reflect the commercial interests of both sides.

The grey suit of Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, was somewhat redeemed by a pretty interpreter. But this western style PR stroke may not be enough to win him the prize.

According to Mr Markovic, Yugoslavia is establishing "an entirely new system aimed at greater economic efficiency and political democracy." About 90 per cent of prices have been liberalized, the main exceptions being those in the public infrastructure.

The key to its anti-inflation policy is full convertibility of the dinar, which has been pegged to the mark (Mrs Thatcher please note). As a result, after only one month inflation has fallen from between 40 per cent and 60 per cent a month to less than 10 per cent in January. Efficiency and productivity are increasing, and workers' councils, which will remain, are being redefined.

The law has been changed to remove limits on foreign investment and twice as many joint ventures have opened in the past year as in the preceding six. Further constitutional changes providing for increased human rights and free and fair elections are in the offing.

Mr Markovic's handicap is that his country shows alarming signs of being

about to fall apart. This clearly worried businessmen in the audience.

Among the most interesting discussions was that led by the Czechs. The tone of their detailed presentation by Vaclav Klaus, the finance minister, was set early on. "We are the monetarists of Eastern Europe," he said.

It is clear, said Mr Klaus, where the new government in Czechoslovakia wants to go. While the Russians talk about wanting a "social market economy" the Czechs want a market economy pure and simple.

It is also clear the kind of structure the Czechs have had over the past 40 years. The present economic system has nothing to do with the textbook version of a command economy in which planners control activity from the top. What in fact happened was that interest groups among the producers determined it from the bottom. The correct model was the "public choice" economics of James Buchanan, the US economist, rather than the Marxist model beloved of Soviet planners.

The problem, of course, is how to get from here to there. The Czech solution is to move the budget into surplus and combine that with a very tight monetary policy while decontrolling prices. The removal of subsidies has already begun.

The main pitfalls, said Mr Klaus, lie in the sequencing of reforms. The Czech government is not planning excessive decentralization. Rather, it wants demonopolization in which the existing state enterprises could be faced with competition. That competition will have to come from abroad, given the small Czech economy, and foreign companies will be given a big welcome.

Mr Klaus clearly believes in market economics in a way few Western politicians do. Asked how far prices might have to rise, he said he could not tell, the market will decide. "It's like chess: you may know the first steps but the game can develop in many ways."

That is a good answer. But one wonders how long such honesty will survive as Western-style political systems develop. Unemployment, he agrees, will rise, but entrepreneurs will emerge with new businesses to absorb it. But what can be done for those out of work? "The most socially just economy is the market economy — with no qualifying adjective," says Mr Klaus. Bravo! But one cannot help shivering a little as the girls line up for the big adventure.

Slowdown 'causing regional changes'

By Our Economics Correspondent

East Anglia will remain Britain's fastest-growing region this year, but Scotland, Northern Ireland and the West Midlands will follow closely as the economic slowdown alters regional performance.

The latest survey from Business Strategies' joint managing director, said British exports are benefiting from growth in world trade at a time of slowdown in Britain.

and the East Midlands, which benefited from higher house prices and the retail boom. With high interest rates, areas with lower exposure to debt and good export industries are faring better.

Mr Charles Burton, Business Strategies' joint managing director, said British exports are benefiting from growth in world trade at a time of slowdown in Britain.

Racal ready to buy 20% stake in SIS

By Jeremy Andrews

Racal Electronics is poised to take a 20 per cent stake in Satellite Information Services, the company which provides live television coverage of horse racing to betting shops.

Racal has confirmed it is in talks with SIS, but Schroders, the merchant bank, declined to say whether an SIS plan for a wider placing among institutions would be dropped.

The shareholders which founded SIS three years ago and helped build it into a business serving 10,000 betting shops were Ladbrokes, William Hill, Mecca, Coral and the Racecourse Association. The latter had pressed for the bookies' stake in SIS to be reduced to 45 per cent.

This was to have been achieved by a placing of 27 per cent of SIS's equity, to be arranged by Schroders.

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L&C wins debate over fee

When Kleinwort Benson decided to switch from commission to charging a fee for its private client services, it lost 25 per cent of its business, says Michael Kerr-Dineen, chief executive of L&C Investment Management. And he adds that L&C, which still generates its income from commission, gained a significant number of them. "We gained about 1,000 clients and are now the biggest private client firm — with about 16,000," he says.

"It proves that clients do not like the concept of paying a flat fee." Admitting that L&C Investment Management lost "a fortune" in 1988, but "genuinely made money" in 1989, he explains that the company's cost and reward structure has been completely redesigned. "We now have a low fixed-cost base and people are rewarded according to their contribution to the bottom line." And he is, he says, now ready to expand rapidly from that base. The first newcomer in this new recruitment project is Paul Martin-Davis, previously with Rowe Davis, and then Kleinwort Benson, who joined last month. And Kerr-Dineen says that he hopes Martin-Davis will be "the first of a flood of really premium people." He is looking for "an open-ended number" of people "imbued in the culture of partnership and looking after private clients" — and capable of earning £200,000 plus a year... in commission, of course.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

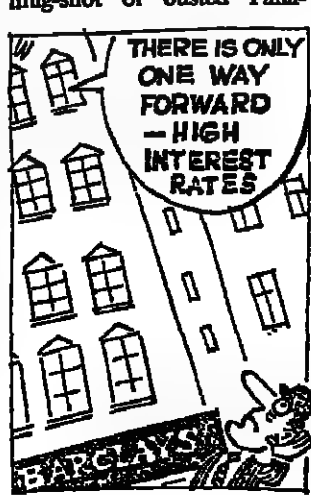
Definitely not Derek

Reports that Sir Derek Alton-Jones, the Ferranti chairman, was spotted at a City Tube station late one night last week, in a slightly inebriated state, are, I can confirm, entirely untrue. His unwitting look-alike was none other than Brian Peatless, an overseas salesman with Smith New Court, who boarded a home-ward-bound train after spending the evening at a lively reunion of former Scrabblepunch Kemp Gee employees. More than 150 people who once worked for the now-defunct firm gathered together, rang-

ing from Hubert Cove, one-time second senior partner of Kemp Gee, who retired from the City last year — and is reputed to have arrived clutching a bottle of Leveille Barton 1961 as a gift to Mick Brace, the firm's old handy man. Peatless, who had originally intended to stay for "just half an hour" finally headed home, several hours later, and was "recognized" by three eager young brokers on the same train. "That's Derek Alton-Jones and he's sloshed," they kept insisting, refusing to accept Peatless's denials.

Pineapple poll

"Only one person can fly into the USA for less than £90," ran the caption, alongside a mug-shot of ousted Pana-



manian dictator General Noriega. The attention-grabbing full-page advert, placed in several national newspapers, to promote Virgin Atlantic, brought forth letters of complaint from members of the public, on the grounds that it was in bad taste. "Fair comment," replied Richard Branson, to one. "I will be talking to our ad people." But far from getting a ticking off, the agency responsible, Woolham Morris Gaskin, has, it seems, received a pat on the back. Far more people wrote in to congratulate them — with NBC in the US featuring it as a news item and the US Embassy in London requesting to buy the original copy. "We were not making any comment about him or his activities," says Virgin marketing boss Julia McCoy.

Health food is off

Do not serve soya burgers, carrot juice or herb tea if you have food manufacturing and retailing analysts Tony Hollingsworth and John Howarth popping round for lunch. In the first of their new regular reviews of the sector, the dynamic duo from CCF Laurence Prust pour cold water on some aspects of the health food market. In a good-humoured and eminently readable survey, they describe it as hysteria. "Already there are suggestions that organic food could be more harmful for you than food grown with the aid of artificial fertilizers and herbicides — something to do with plants building up their own natural immunity when left to their own devices, and such immunity contains additional toxins," they warn.

"And there is the odd claim that sufferers from Alzheimer's Disease can have their flagging mental alertness sharpened by nicotine and should start smoking." As for decaffeinated coffee, they report: "An experiment involving 181 men at Stamford University found that those coffee drinkers who switched to decaffeinated coffee from regular experienced as much as a seven per cent rise in their levels of low-density lipoprotein form of cholesterol."

• An antidote to all those warning signs in the rear windows of cars proclaiming "Baby on board" has been spotted by a reader. A home-made sticker reads: "No baby yet — get as close as you like."

Carol Leonard

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Federated threat to BAT stores sale plan

From James Bone
New York

BAT Industries plans to sell its Marshall Field and Saks Fifth Avenue department store chains in the United States could be undermined by the disclosure that Federated Stores, part of the troubled Campeau group, is considering taking Bloomingdale's off the market.

Federated put the 17-store chain up for sale last autumn after admitting it had a cash flow problem which led to it filing for Chapter 11 protection from creditors.

Several bidders submitted offers but Federated is thought to have had difficulties getting its asking price of at least \$1 billion (\$395 million). Analysts said that if bids were inadequate, Federated might be better off keeping Bloomingdale's for its cash flow.

The poor response to the sale could dent prospects for the sale of Marshall Field and Saks Fifth Avenue, which BAT is trying to unload in response to the stalled bid by Hoylake.

Mr Allen Questrom, who left Federated when Campeau bought it in 1988, is to be chairman and chief executive of Federated and Campeau's Allied Stores Corp, which has also filed under Chapter 11.

In a week of many company results but few from the international groups, the nine-month figures from British Telecom, due on Thursday, will be a highlight.

Mr Patrick Wellington at County NatWest WoodMac expects BT to ring up pre-tax profits of £675 million for the third quarter, compared with £623 million last time. Forecasts range from £660 million to £700 million for the quarter after a 6 per cent rise to £1.31 billion in the first six months.

Mr Iain Vallance, the chairman, is set to lay out his plans for selling the company's cable television interests as part of a cost-cutting drive. BT's 51 per cent stake in Mitel, the Canadian maker of private telephone exchange systems, was put up for sale recently. The stake, bought for £160 million in 1986, is likely to be worth about half that now.

TODAY

Interim: Impulse Plenum, Final: Beckenham Group, Berkeley Govett & Co, Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust, UTC Group.

TOMORROW

The trading outlook remains difficult at Aaronson Bros, the chipboard and bathroom products group, and the diversification into plastics has been held back by the costs of the move from Rickmansworth to Telford.

After the slump in profits at the interim stage and July's profits warning, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, expects final pre-tax profits to fall to £2.5 million, compared with £5.8 million last time.

Pre-tax profits at Unitech, the electronics components maker, are expected to rise by 75 per cent to £12.5 million for the half year, according to County NatWest WoodMac.

Power supply markets have been dull in Britain and America, restricting earnings growth, but this should be offset by a strong contribution from Nemic Lambda, the Japanese subsidiary.

News is also awaited on the plans of the two Swiss shareholders, Electrowatt, with 29.9 per cent, and Dr Tito Tettamanti, the financier, who has lifted his stake to 17 per cent.

Trading at Securicard, the security and cleaning services group led by Mr Alan Baldwin, is thought to be buoyant with particular strength in cleaning and maintenance.

The group acquired Madison Building Services Group, the New York office cleaning business, for £10.6 million, taking its American exposure up to 20 per cent of sales.

The recession has had little effect and contributions from acquisitions and strong organic growth, running at about 25 per cent, have led house



Cost cutting: Iain Vallance of BT



Stackening growth: Richard Giordano

brokers UBS Phillips & Drew to expect a jump in pre-tax profits to £6.35 million for the year, compared with £3.1 million last time.

Further progress is also expected from Securicard Group and Security Services. Analysts are looking for final pre-tax profits to increase from £27.3 million to £47 million and from £21.8 million to £36 million respectively.

Interim: Hambro Currency Fund, Helton Holdings, Micklethwait Group, Unitech.
Finals: Aaronson Bros, Sandell Group, Securicard Group, Security Services, Securicard.

Reporting this week

BT expected to ring in with £675m

Interim: None announced.
Finals: HunterPrint Group, St Modwen Properties, Union Discount Company of London.

THURSDAY

When BOC, the industrial gases and healthcare group chaired by Mr Richard Giordano, reported full-year profits of £330 million (£301 million) last November, we saw slower growth than in recent years.

BZW expects modest overall 7 per cent growth in pre-tax profits reaching £82 million for the three months to December, against £76.5 million.

A fifth of BOC's business is in Britain and 40 per cent in the Far East and Australia. As yet there are no signs of a recession in the Pacific rim countries; however, there were signs that European and North American growth was slackening.

Budgens, the supermarket group led by Mr John Fletcher, is expected to turn in pre-tax profits of £4.9 million at the half-way stage, according to Goldman Sachs.

The resignation of Mr Tony Birch, the managing director, was announced last week. Some believe he was disheartened after last April's agreed £134 million bid from William Low, the Scottish supermarket group, was called off in May after differences over the finances of the combined group. News is also awaited on

the extent to which the group is financially stretched.

Interim: BOC Group, Brise Group, British Telecommunications, Budgens, Elber, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation Ltd, VFM.
Finals: Consolidated Co Builders, Mine, Copenhagen Handelsbank, Edisson (Telefonaktiebolaget LM), Gröndal West Diamond Mining Co, Trigonon USM Trust.

FRIDAY

Sock Shop International, the specialist sock and stocking retailer brought to the USM in May 1987 by Miss Sophie Mirman and her husband Mr Richard Ross, gave a warning of significant losses last week.

Sock Shop has been suffering from the effects of the rail and tube strikes which hit its 30 in-station shops, the hot summer, higher costs in America and the downturn in the clothing market.

Gearing is above 200 per cent at the heavily-indebted company and it is still negotiating a refinancing package thought to involve an equity injection. The company is expected to reveal interim losses of more than £1 million.

Analysts also expect Sock Shop to reveal a significant extraordinary write-off from last month's closure of its 17 American stores.

Interim: Abingworth, Automec Holdings, Honeycastle Group, Pacific Dunlop Ltd, Sock Shop International.
Finals: Manchester Ship Canal Co.

Philip Pangalos

US NOTEBOOK

Service jobs rise as manufacturing base collapses

From Maxwell Newton, New York

A further collapse in factory employment in the two months to January has underlined an important message for America - the nation is withdrawing at speed from the production of goods.

By January, the level of employment in US goods production (manufacturing and construction combined) was about 1 million, or 3 per cent, fewer than in 1980.

Over the same period, there was an increase of more than 20 million, or 30 per cent in service-producing jobs.

A result of the massive shift has been that average gross weekly earnings in America, in 1977 dollars, have fallen from \$172.74 in 1980 to \$166 today. This fall of 3 per cent has been largely the result of the elimination of more and more "high paid" factory jobs. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing are still twice what they are in retail trade.

In recent months, the problems of the industrial sector

will decline. By December 1989, manufacturing production was a mere 1.7 per cent above the December 1988 level. American car production is being heavily cut. So far this year, all domestic car producers (including the Japanese "transplants") have produced or plan to produce fewer than 400,000 cars, which is 45 per cent less than they produced in the same period in 1989.

General Motors production in the 1990 period is down 60 per cent; Ford is off 49.5 per cent and Chrysler 55 per cent.

As the US defence industries are dismantled, the industrial sector's contraction will be accelerated. There are already serious problems in American technology, with upheavals at IBM and Apple.

As "high paid" factory jobs disappear, more and more Americans are looking for jobs in the services sector. Notably, American women are chasing jobs, to support the family income. In the past 10 years, there has been an increase of about 11 million women in work (up about 28 per cent) compared with an increase of about 6 million men at work (up about 10 per cent).

The immediate outlook is for tougher times for Americans in general as goods-producing jobs disappear.

In January, unseasonably warm weather led to a large increase in construction employment. But this too will pass, due to the excessive vacancy rates of industrial and office properties and the weakness of housing demand.

Over the past year, employment has risen about 300,000 in state and local government; about 400,000 in retail trade; and about 1 million in other services.

A shakeout is coming in retailing as large chains struggle for profitability; in hotels and lodging, cost-cutting is now widespread; state and local government budgets are under severe pressure as their revenue growth dries up.

America is struggling with a deep-seated problem of maintaining, let alone increasing, living standards. New York's plague of beggars is a sign of the times.

American women are chasing jobs to support the family income

have led to a sharp fall in the growth rate of average hourly earnings.

In January 1990, the year-over-year increase in average hourly earnings was 3.7 per cent; the six-month growth was 3 per cent and the three-month growth rate was 2.4 per cent. Earnings are being squeezed. So are the big industrial unions.

An example of the decline of the factory union base has been the huge layoffs in the Big Three unionized motor plants while the non-union Japanese plants have been taking on more workers.

Nowhere is the collapse of America's industrial base more evident than in the motor industry. Between December and January employment dropped 90,000 to 734,000, albeit in part temporarily.

In 1990, it now seems conceivable, indeed likely, that US manufacturing production

Builders forecast 'inevitable' fall

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

More than half the members of the Building Employers Confederation (BEC) are working at two-thirds to three-quarters of full capacity.

Worst affected are those outside London in the south and east of England, where falls in output are expected. The majority of companies in northern England and Scotland are anticipating a stable or growing workload.

Commercial building, which accounts for a fifth of all construction work, is the only sector currently expanding. The housing sector has suffered for some time and growth in industrial building has also ground to a halt.

In its latest quarterly survey, the BEC gives warning of an "inevitable" downturn in output this year. It follows a output this year. It follows a general downturn in new inquiries.

The fall in output could be

limited to 3 per cent, the BEC suggests, but it adds two provisos. One is that the downturn in inquiries does not affect workloads until the middle of the year. The other, possibly more crucial, is that existing schemes are not threatened by developers running into financial difficulties.

The report says: "The apparent reluctance of the clearing banks to provide finance for new schemes and the introduction of the uniform business rate have created uncertainties, which have encouraged developers to hesitate."

Limiting the downturn to 3 per cent would leave output above the 1988 level, said Mr Peter Rainbird, the BEC chairman. He added: "The best news for the building industry would be a cut in interest rates as soon as this can be made without fuelling inflation."



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Just eight years later, the new material had already been used in the naval dockyards at Woolwich, Deptford and Portsmouth, and for dockside warehouses in Liverpool.

And scientists all over Europe were arguing over who had actually invented the process we now call galvanizing (after an Italian - Galvani - who had discovered the apparent life-giving effect of combining two metals during an experiment with dead frogs in 1786).

While the scientists squabbled, British manufacturers quietly beat the world in developing it commercially.

Creating a flourishing export market in the process.

When the Californian Gold Rush started in 1849, it was galvanized steel from Britain which made the prospectors' gold-washing pans, tent equipment and portable buildings.

It was also a British supplier (one John Thompson) who



Our range of pre-painted Colorcoat steels are reducing manufacturing costs in white goods, brown goods and the construction industry.

Our lightweight steels are helping to improve fuel consumption in cars.

Our structural steels are taking over as the backbone of buildings in Britain and abroad.

And our stainless steel cladding is increasingly becoming the most attractive face for them.

We finish each one of these steels to the precise specifications of the customer, and the demands of the environment.

An oil-rig in the North Sea. Structural support for the Channel Tunnel. Or an airport in the Saudi Arabian desert.

For a dramatic example of the principle in action, take a look at the Thames Barrier in London.

With 18,000 tonnes of British structural steel in the flood-gates and foundations, it's keeping out the elements in truly spectacular fashion.

WE'RE ADDING VALUE AT BRITISH STEEL.



Photograph courtesy Shell UK Exploration and Production.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Marley	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Reed Int'l (Am)	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Warburg SG	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Body Shop	1.00	0.05	5.0%
5. Lough	1.00	0.05	5.0%
6. Gibbs & Dandy Ord	1.00	0.05	5.0%
7. Meggit	1.00	0.05	5.0%
8. French (Thomas)	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Maud	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Metal Clowns	1.00	0.05	5.0%
11. Anglia TV A	1.00	0.05	5.0%
12. Amec	1.00	0.05	5.0%
13. Allied Lon	1.00	0.05	5.0%
14. Low & Bonar	1.00	0.05	5.0%
15. Br Vta	1.00	0.05	5.0%
16. Whitbread A (ns)	1.00	0.05	5.0%
17. Church	1.00	0.05	5.0%
18. BM GP	1.00	0.05	5.0%
19. Waddington LJ	1.00	0.05	5.0%
20. G. Farland	1.00	0.05	5.0%
21. Sainsbury	1.00	0.05	5.0%
22. Prop Security	1.00	0.05	5.0%
23. Bowne	1.00	0.05	5.0%
24. Mountfield	1.00	0.05	5.0%
25. Scot TV	1.00	0.05	5.0%
26. Clyde Pet	1.00	0.05	5.0%
27. Higgs & Hill	1.00	0.05	5.0%
28. Shawcross	1.00	0.05	5.0%
29. Markham	1.00	0.05	5.0%
30. Suez	1.00	0.05	5.0%
31. Morgan Cole	1.00	0.05	5.0%
32. Auto Sec	1.00	0.05	5.0%
33. Granada (s)	1.00	0.05	5.0%
34. S. V. L.	1.00	0.05	5.0%
35. Secur-SNA	1.00	0.05	5.0%
36. Federated Hag	1.00	0.05	5.0%
37. Brun Chem	1.00	0.05	5.0%
38. MacLaurin (Alfred)	1.00	0.05	5.0%
39. EMAP	1.00	0.05	5.0%
40. Bradford	1.00	0.05	5.0%
41. TIP Europe	1.00	0.05	5.0%
42. Medeva	1.00	0.05	5.0%
43. Penland	1.00	0.05	5.0%
44. Broken Hill	1.00	0.05	5.0%
45. Times Newspapers Ltd	1.00	0.05	5.0%

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock out- standing	Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
5. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
6. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
7. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
5. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
6. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
7. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
5. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
6. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
7. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

UNDATED

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
5. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
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8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

INDEX-LINKED

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
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8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
3. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
4. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
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7. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
8. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
9. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
10. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 29. Dealings end February 9. Contango day February 12. Settlement day February 19.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
2. Anglo Irish	1.00	0.05	5.0%
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Company	
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The best deals yet to come?

The 1980s were, without doubt, good years for the management buy-out in Britain. The question is whether the 1990s will be as kind. For its advocates, the MBO, imported from the United States, provides the means of creating a class of committed managers who make companies more efficient.

Critics argue that buyouts, especially the highly leveraged ones, are a recipe for businesses over-burdened with debt.

So long as there was strong growth in the economy, there was plenty of scope for MBOs. The institutions were ever ready to fund such ventures in return for an equity stake. Bringing MBOs to the stock market was also a more attractive affair; bullishness about share prices seemed to know no limits.

The sheer scale of some MBOs is impressive. Though Britain has still to see the billion-plus transaction, Reedpack's £608.5 million buyout of the office supplies, paper and packaging arms of Reed International, the largest UK deal to date, was big by any yardstick.

The cautious optimism of J. Peter Williams, Reedpack's chief executive, about his company's prospects in a now harsher economic climate is due not only to confidence in his products, but also because

The good decade for buyouts ended with a decline in their numbers, and some failures. But, Colin Narbrough reports, there is still optimism

he wisely hedged the bulk of its borrowings.

John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has made no secret of his belief that 1990 will be a "difficult" year, although he still thinks Britain will escape recession.

Gloom is more evident in the latest Confederation of British Industry survey of manufacturers' expectations, which puts business confidence at its lowest since the autumn of 1980 and the economy close to recession.

After the innovative years of the 1980s, the scene for the MBOs soured last year as rising interest rates exposed financial weaknesses among the celebrated MBOs of the UK retailing sector. Regulators on both sides of the Atlantic started to voice concern about the leveraged financing involved.

The collapse of the US market in "junk bonds", the high-yield, high-risk debt instruments used to fund buyouts and the failure of the proposed MBO for United Airlines, paralleled the debt restructuring of large UK buyouts.

For all the mounting worries, last year was another record year for MBOs, the



Williams: hedged borrowing sixth year in a row, though the exact numbers are hard to pin down.

According to figures compiled by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the total value climbed to £6.4 billion, an increase of £1.4 billion on the previous year. Nottingham University's Centre for Management Buy-Out Research reports a 50 per cent rise to £7.5 billion.

Nottingham's annual analysis of the buyout business shows a 10 per cent increase in the numbers of MBOs to a total of 500, but the centre warns that big buyouts are likely to face a difficult year.

Not only has there been adverse publicity about the financial problems of some deals, such as MFI, the fur-

niture group, there has also been a worrying jump in the number of small MBOs going into receivership.

Reflecting the impact of the Government's high interest rate policy, aimed at squeezing inflation out of the overheated economy, the MBO casualties appear to be bunched in the hard-hit sectors of the economy, such as retailing, which have been worst affected by the Chancellor's bid to slow consumer spending.

Nottingham's analysis suggests that investors taking a longer-term view of MBOs should be able to ride out the coming bad year. But those seeking short-term profits are likely to be disappointed.

Chris Beresford, head of management buyouts at KPMG, recognizes the underlying downward trend in the value of MBOs in the final quarter of last year. At £730 million, it was the lowest since the first quarter of 1988, after the scare of the Black Monday stock market crash in the previous quarter.

Following what he terms a "wonderful decade", with 2,500 deals worth a total of £18 billion, he is confident that the mechanism is here to stay.

"MBOs are not going away, although for the moment they may be adversely affected by interest rates."

He sees the MBO formula relying on growing profits. Until confidence in these returns, MBOs will remain "relatively quiet" with a possibility of 1990 showing the first slowdown in the value of this activity for seven years.

Since the 1981 Companies Act gave lenders direct security on the underlying assets of a business, managers have become steadily more aware of the opportunity of buying the business in which they work.

Vendors too have appreciated the merits of selling their non-core businesses to managers for the appropriate prices. There has been no shortage of providers of equity debt and mezzanine finance.

With interest rates expected to come down later this year, and with the prospect of heightened merger and takeover activity in the run-up to the single European market, this year could merely represent a pause for breath.

The regulatory concern about MBOs is unlikely to disappear, now that it has been aroused. The City's Takeover Panel moved just before Christmas to give shareholders more protection against members of management bidding for an entire quoted company.



Plastic production at Reedpack: its buyout of a Reed International division is Britain's biggest

A new door opens on an old market

Why the Continent could become the corporate centre

A common belief in the City and on Wall Street is that the Anglo-Saxon world is the centre of finance. This view might have to change (Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent writes).

Continental Europe has been viewed as over-cautious, over-protected and ripe for a shake-up. It could well be coming, and the management buyout could form part of the change.

The single European market, due for completion in 1992, is proving to be a motor for change in the corporate sector, giving new vigour and importance to merger and acquisition activity in markets where arranged marriages were once *de rigueur*.

The MBO's place in all this could be significant. As cross-

border links are forged, the need for former national conglomerates to shed their non-core businesses should grow.

Privatisation is still at an early stage in continental Europe, but many governments are pledging to sell off state assets, giving another opportunity for MBOs.

The slowdown in the British and North American economies has left Europe, led by West Germany, moving ahead. This, too, should draw attention from the MBO specialists in London and other centres.

Though slow to discover the formula, the European markets

managed to execute about \$6.5 billion worth of MBOs in the 1980s. Small by comparison with the UK's £18.3 billion, the figure nevertheless shows that the interest is there.

France, where top businessmen in recent years have demonstrated an unbridled enthusiasm for strategic thinking and innovation accounts for over half the total value of continental MBOs, followed by West Germany, Sweden and Italy.

Much of the French interest has been attributed to a widening in 1987 of its tax breaks for staff buyouts. The sale of family-owned companies has also played a role in fueling buyout activity.

But the French are not the pioneers. The £68 million buyout of Van Nelle of the Netherlands from Nabisco, the food multinational, came as early as 1985.

Interestingly, big MBOs account for a greater share of the market in Europe than in the UK,

with the 10 largest deals representing 56 per cent of total value, versus 44 per cent for this country.

The Continent offers greater safety for the investor, as earnings are lower than in big deals in the US, and below the maximum debt-equity ratio of five to one in Britain.

This extra security should ensure support from European investors and attract the leading North American players, especially if

other markets, like the US, continue to encounter regulatory and economic difficulties.

Despite the bad publicity buyouts have been receiving, the attitudes of managers in continental Europe towards MBOs is changing.

One only needs to recall the way the UK took to the MBO to realize how quickly markets can embrace new thinking.

The surge in West German share prices in response to the opening up of Eastern Europe since last summer has shown how dynamic once-sleepy markets can

become when perceptions are revised. The hostile Siemens-GEC takeover of the British electronics company Plessey confirmed that German corporate culture, formerly bound by the friendly takeover, is changing.

Heightened MBO activity in Europe could require innovative financing.

The expected slowdown this year in MBO activity in the UK could provide a golden opportunity for London's buyout specialists to take their wares across the Channel.

There is no time for waiting. Citicorp, which led the way on leveraged MBOs in the US, and was an early arrival on the UK scene, has already geared up for 1992 and set up shop in the main European markets.



NOTHING
VENTURED,
NOTHING
GAINED.

It really is extraordinary what you can achieve with the right attitude - and the right support.

Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Everest.

The management team at Aynsley China achieved a successful buy-out during the weeks immediately following the October 1987 crash.

The team at Maccas Group bought themselves out twice in two years - in order to increase their equity holding from 30% to 72.5%.

And Geoffrey Parker and his colleagues at Maritime Transport Services simultaneously arranged finance for a £80 million buy-out of the Isle of Grain cargo port, and the £90 million they needed to develop the site.

Hillary had the support of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

The other examples - as well as dozens of other buy-outs ranging in size from £1 million to £100 million - were backed by County NatWest Ventures.

We can provide substantial amounts of equity and mezzanine and access to senior debt - as well as expert and imaginative advice - through a network of offices in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester.

We also offer something rather more intangible.

The kind of drive, enthusiasm and commitment which led Jimmy Molin Managing Director of Jeyes after its buy-out from Cadbury Schweppes, to say: "County NatWest's negotiation skills, combined with financial muscle, enabled the buy-out to be completed smoothly and efficiently, beating off tough outside bidders."

Finally, we offer something very tangible indeed. A forty-page brochure which gives full case histories of management buy-outs, and buy-ins, led by County NatWest Ventures.

And which could open your eyes to what you could achieve.

For your copy, call Helen Walsh on (01) 375 5109, or write to: County NatWest Ventures, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.

You'll find it confirms Hillary's remark that no mountain is unclimbable.

COUNTY NATWEST
VENTURES
A MEMBER OF IMRO
The NatWest Investment Bank Group

When the sums don't always work



At the helm: Derek Hunt, former policeman who led the business in a £1.8 billion merger

● Dozens of successful management buy-outs of varying sizes have been made in recent years, but the buyouts hitting the headlines lately have been large ones which have experienced problems. Both MFI and Magnet have had to return to their bankers to seek extra funds but, although the two cases are often linked together, the buyouts

and the companies are quite different. ● Once, financiers were eager to lend money for MBOs. However, a more cautious approach is evident after these two high-profile refinancings. High interest rates and a tough time on the high street hurt MFI and Magnet. MBOs in the retail sector will be more tightly structured as a result. This year,

the number of financial institutions in the MBO market is expected to fall as several MBOs are expected to be cancelled and nurse losses. ● There have been 22 private buyouts in the UK, nine of which were completed last year. Several more are pending. Gillian Bowditch looks at the two that went back to ask for more.

MFI: LIKELY TO SURVIVE THE BAD TIMES

MFI started life as Mulnard Furniture Industries in 1964, selling cheap furniture and camping gear by mail order. It then moved out of town to sell cheap self-assemble furniture. The business was profitable and the company opened a store every year for 10 years, winning 12 per cent of the furniture market and becoming a top 100 company. In 1971, the group sales totalled £6 million and it was floated on the stock market.

Under the guidance of Derek Hunt, a former policeman who joined the group in 1972, the company flourished and in 1985 Hunt led the business in a £1.8 billion merger with Asda, the supermarket group. But the marriage with MFI was unhappy and in July 1987 Asda put the furniture chain up for sale.

The announcement of the sale was the signal for Hunt and his colleagues to put together a buyout of the business. MFI was selling one in four British kitchens and two in five bedrooms but profits had stagnated. A shake-up was needed.

City reaction to the idea of a buyout was gloomy. The bankers thought MFI was too big for a buyout and did not have enough assets if things went wrong.

But a fortnight before the stock market crash of October 1987, the £715 million buyout and acquisition of Hygena kitchens was announced. It had been put together by Charterhouse, the merchant bank, and enhanced the bank's reputation in the buyout stakes.

The deal was four times larger than the previous biggest MBO, Lawson Maraden, the packaging arm of BAT. There was a tense time at MFI just before the buyout,

Leaner but fitter

when sales in early September fell and the profit targets set by the financiers looked daunting. But though the furniture market had been flat before the buyout, December was a great month and January sales figures were dazzling.

Within three months of the buyout, MFI was beating its forecasts to such an extent that it was able to leave the immediate targets aside and take a much longer view of the business.

In July 1988, the company announced a 55 per cent rise in operating profits in the first 24 weeks of its life as an independent company. Sales rose 25 per cent. By January 1989, half-year operating profits had risen 56 per cent and in February last year the group was talking about a £1 billion stock market flotation by the autumn of 1989.

By May, the situation had changed dramatically. Sales had fallen 10 per cent and 515 jobs were shed. By July, MFI had missed its profit target and by August the group had returned to its bankers for a £95 million refinancing package, which comprised a £35 million rights issue and a £60 million debt restructuring. But unlike some of its counterparts, MFI made a pre-tax profit of £65.6 million for the year to April 1989.

The group was hit by the downturn in the property market and the rise in interest rates. Management was surprised at the speed of the downturn in sales. But the group was in a healthy state before the buyout and had the advantage of having had a year of meeting its profit and interest payment targets.

It was unfortunate that MFI's £500 million buyout coincided with the £200 million sale of Hygena kitchens, which the group was more or less forced into buying. MFI was dependent on Hygena and could not afford to let the manufacturing business fall into other hands. During the buyout the group was also attempting a move upmarket and the consumer downturn this time round was unlike the slump MFI had seen in the past.

Hunt says in previous downturns customers had traded down and the group's cheaper ranges had benefited. This time customers were not buying at all.

MFI is seen in the City as a strong company which has sound management but which has been unlucky. The buyout did not come about because the management had fallen out with the City or was unhappy about its rating.

Unless there is some unforeseen catastrophe MFI will weather the storm and emerge a leaner and slightly battered business.

In the wake of the refinancing, the store closure programme has been cut back. Two new MFI stores were opened in the first half of the current financial year and one was relocated. Three stores were closed. A maximum of 20 stores will be opened in 1991.

The group is still aiming for a refutation but that is likely to be at least three years from now.

MAGNET: TOO HOT IN THE KITCHENS?

Problem deal

Problems beset the buyout of Magnet from the outset. The management of the Yorkshire-based kitchen-to-bedroom retailer revealed its plans in January 1989. The buyout had been provoked by strained relations with the City. Magnet had failed to excite analysts; Tom Duxbury, Magnet's chairman, felt his company's true worth was not appreciated.

Duxbury, grandson of Magnet's founder, took control of the family builders' merchant and kitchen retail business in 1985 and decided that selling kitchens was considerably more profitable than selling planks to builders. He unwound the builders' merchants business and in January 1988 sold the Southern Evans timber merchanting business, not long after a £71 million rights issue that disgruntled shareholders and analysts.

The buyout was badly handled from the start. A month after the announcement, the group's managing director, Stephen Emmott, resigned over a difference of opinion with Duxbury. A year earlier, the finance director, Gordon Brown, had left suddenly.

By March last year, the funding, coordinated by Bankers Trust, was in place and Duxbury and two fellow directors, his nephew Matthew Ingle and the finance director Albert King, offered 300p a share, valuing the business at £625 million.

The offer for the group was drawn-out: some institutions disliked the terms offered to convertible preference shareholders. By May, the group had been forced to bow to institutional pressure and

offer more for the preference shares. But by June, the deal had still not been finalized and institutions were again complaining — this time about the high commissions being paid to the underwriters. It was not until July 4, after much wrangling and bad publicity, that the deal went ahead. Within a month, the shares in the new buyout vehicle were trading below values indicated in the buyout documents. The next problem was Bankers Trust's inability to put out to syndicate the £532 million of loans that financed the buyout.

By October, three months after the deal had gone ahead, news had trickled out that the buyout was in trouble and Magnet was having to go back to its bankers. The group had based the buyout on projections of a growth in profits of 20 per cent per annum from a supposed profit base of £72 million. Later it was revealed that the profits had been only £45 million, but even on £72 million the targets appeared impossible to meet. In November, King, the finance director, left. He is suing the group for wrongful dismissal. A month later, Duxbury handed in his resignation.

When the refinancing package was revealed last month, it emerged that the buyout team had paid £350 million too much for the business. The £200 million of debt repayments were deferred. The refinancing package is considered to offer little flexibility if things continue to go wrong but it will give the company at least a six-month breathing space.

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MMD
United Machinery Group
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MBOs - WHO'S NEXT

1989 FUND KENWOOD buy-out - September 1989 Finance raised £5.4 million	HAYS PLC buy-out - November 1987 Finance raised £275 million FLOTATION OCTOBER 1989	BPCC buy-out - January 1989 Finance raised £265 million
HUMBERCLYDE FINANCE GROUP buy-out - September 1987 Finance raised £20.4 million SALE TO COMPAGNIE BANCAIRE SA AUGUST 1989	CARADON PLC buy-out - October 1985 Finance raised £66.7 million FLOTATION JULY 1987	FAIREY GROUP PLC buy-out - December 1986 Finance raised £50 million FLOTATION NOVEMBER 1988
RENTCO INTERNATIONAL buy-out - May 1987 Finance raised £5.8 million SALE TO TIPPOCK PLC DECEMBER 1988	NKF HOLDING BV (led by Candover's Netherlands Associates, Venture Capital Investors BV) buy-out - December 1986 Finance raised £38.4 million FLOTATION (AMSTERDAM) MAY 1988	DWEK GROUP buy-out - September 1988 Finance raised £38.1 million
TALLENT ENGINEERING buy-out - January 1989 Finance raised £11 million	RECHEM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PLC buy-out - December 1985 Finance raised £2.5 million FLOTATION MAY 1988	

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MANAGEMENT BUYOUTS/3

Down, but not out . . .

The history of buy-ins may be littered with recent disasters, but there are important lessons to be learnt from the failures



Into new areas: Geoff Mulcahy



BAT attack: James Goldsmith



Resigned chief: James Gulliver

In the 1980s, management buy-ins emerged as an investment area for UK banks and venture capital groups. A buy-in is where a management unconnected with a company buys a controlling stake, with support from banks and institutions.

The first big buy-in to hit the headlines was when the Pater-noster group bought control of Woolworth in 1982. The buy-in team, headed by Geoff Mulcahy, has made a success of the venture, turning the group around and taking it into new areas such as drugstores and DIY.

The market for buy-ins is growing - 174 deals totalling £1 billion were completed in the UK by 1988. Though still only a fraction of the size of the buyout market, the ratio of straight MBOs to MBIs has declined from 40 to one in 1984 to five to one in 1987.

The biggest buy-in came last year with Isocoles' £2.4 billion buy-in of Gateway, the super-market group. The pioneering venture capital group, 3i, says it completed twice as many buy-ins in 1989 as in 1988.

Buy-ins have flourished over the last eight years because of the strength of the UK economy, the same factor driving the buyout market. Investors have also become interested in the potential capital gains to be made from the injection of new management into under-performing businesses.

In the past, businesses that have under-performed have been tolerated by shareholders, but now they are seen as potential buy-in targets. As Sir James Goldsmith's

attempted buy-in of BAT has shown, size is not an object. The acceptability of paying profit bonuses to management or giving them lucrative share options has helped to fuel the buy-in market.

Though similar to buyouts, buy-ins are considered more risky. The team heading the buy-in can be judged only by the past record of its members and often the team has had no association with the industry into which it is moving. Even when its experience is in the same or associated sectors, there is an inevitable transition period while it gets to grips with the new business.

According to Anthony Lunch, executive director of Base International and an expert on buy-ins, this risk is reflected in the buy-in price compared with the price of MBOs. The two essential ingredients for a buy-in are money and management. Until recently, money has been no obstacle and while there are still herds of venture capital groups willing to back small to medium-sized buy-ins, the problem of Lowndes Queensway has led to some lenders curbing their desire to provide large sums to buy-ins, especially in retailing.

The cult of the personality, which prospered in the City in the 1970s and 1980s, and the fact that more executives are moving from company to company, has made

the good managers easier to identify. Awards for business people have also helped.

Three types of company in particular lend themselves to buy-ins, according to Lunch: family businesses, where there is no obvious successor to the chief

executive; companies where the business has outgrown the founder; and ailing companies that need resources and management change.

Lunch says the 1987 Stock Exchange crash has made life more difficult for groups seeking a

listing. Opportunities to realize capital gains through a listing are therefore limited and a buy-in can be an attractive option.

The same questions have to be asked in a buy-in as a buyout. If the company being bought into is under threat of closure, has high

borrowings, a declining market or products still at the development stage, or has poor labour relations or too large a workforce, the money for buying will be less forthcoming.

Some argue that, like buyouts, buy-ins are a phenomenon of the bull market, relying on steady interest rates, the ability to sell divisions, high price exits in the short term and strong sales. The recent failure of buy-ins in the UK and across the Atlantic could back this theory.

The problems faced by Lowndes Queensway, where shareholders have seen their investment fall by 95 per cent over the last 18 months, are cautionary. The group received an eleventh-hour rescue package in January which prevented it from going into liquidation, but 40 per cent of the group's furniture and carpet shops are to be closed and more than 1,000 jobs lost.

James Gulliver, who led the buy-in, has resigned and about one billion shares have been issued by the company. The theory of the buy-in has dissolved. Instead of reducing equity and relying on debt to give greater returns to fewer investors, the group has ended up with more equity than it started with; investors' potential gains have been diluted to keep the company trading.

The story of the buy-in by the Canadian group Campeau of Federated Department Stores and Allied Stores in the United States is also grim. The deal, put together by the US investment duo Wasserstein, Perella, has been one of corporate America's biggest disasters, with Federated filing for bankruptcy in January. The problem was \$7.75 billion (£4.5 million) of debt, with Campeau paying the inflated price of \$6.6 million for Federated - twice the US stock market valuation - before the buyout. When revenues turned out to be lower than projected, cost cutting fell behind schedule, the interest payments became crushing - and the inevitable happened.

Despite these failures, the buy-in, like the buyout, is unlikely to die. The ambitious deals of the last few years may be over for the time being, but much has been learnt from the buy-in failures.

Crucial to the success of the deal is pricing. If the buy-in company is over-priced in the first place the deal will be crippled from the start. The second important factor is hedging against volatile interest rates from the start and, thirdly, a flexible package with realistic targets is essential. Management must be given some leeway if things go wrong.

Finally, the banks and institutions backing the buy-in must give a proper after-care service. Growth must be planned from day one.

Gillian Bowditch

Focus falls on management

Angela Mackay looks at how money is raised for a buyout, and the price that companies must inevitably pay

Management buyouts have had a lot of bad press lately. Not only because several large MBO transactions have unravelled spectacularly, but also because the market is re-examining management motives for undertaking the deals.

High interest rates and a more cautious attitude from bank lenders are also exerting a profound effect. While these factors - particularly the high-profile problems at MFI, Magnet and Lowndes Queensway - are likely to deter potential candidates for a large MBO, small deals should be much less affected.

A successful MBO depends on a mature business possessing a good, non-cyclical cash flow, a strong management and, in most cases, a long-term perspective.

Management invests a disproportionate amount of money to obtain a major equity stake and borrows most of the balance against the business's assets from a bank or a venture capital group, depending on the size of the deal. The new company is relatively highly leveraged, but much of the debt consists of conventional bank borrowing.

The instance of the debt being sold-on is not as popular in the UK as it is in the United States or Australia where there are thriving secondary corporate debt markets. On the other hand mezzanine finance, which tops up bank borrowings, has started to play a role in larger MBOs in the UK.

Usually, mezzanine loans carry a higher rate of interest and an equity "kicker", for example, warrants to subscribe for ordinary equity at favourable rates in the future which will raise the rate of return if the buyout is successful.

In most cases, the attraction for the mezzanine financier is the ultimate flotation of the MBO on the stock exchange. If

listing looks to be sooner rather than later, the interest rate on the loan may drop or be removed altogether. Larger MBOs often have a "ratchet clause", which means the management's equity is dependent on performance.

There has been some disquiet about a "hidden agenda" behind MBOs and concern at instances of managers who sell to other companies rather than float or stay privately independent. Critics say banks are providing cash for a buyout as a wealth generator for the management.

However, the temptation to accuse managers of taking an easy way out must be tempered by depressed conditions on the stock exchange. Low turnover and a fight to qualify by investors have not encouraged many private companies to regard

flotation as the way to realize the true value of a company which a private sale to another company may provide. In good times, many MBOs stem from mergers and acquisition activity. Buyers of diversified companies, for example, usually want to keep only the core activities.

In a tougher climate, many MBOs come from distress sales to help the parent company's cash flow. This year, according to the Centre for Management Buyout Research, the market value of buyouts is expected to fall following a 50 per cent increase in 1989. Total market value of the 500 deals completed is estimated to be £7.5 billion, while the number of deals rose 10 per cent. The centre also suggested that for the first time, the number of participating financial institutions leading to MBOs will fall.

According to Ron Hollidge, managing director of Lloyds Development Capital, an over-supply of money in the MBO market resulted in a level of euphoria and a tendency to believe that large MBOs could not fail.

Buyouts and buy-ins in the United Kingdom in 1988 and 1989

	No	Value (£m)	Average (£m)
Management buyouts			
1988	373	3,717	10.0
1989*	370	3,820	10.3
Public buy-ins			
1988	28	609	21.8
1989*	26	3,140	120.8
Private buy-ins			
1988	77	616	8.0
1989*	104	540	5.2
Total			
1988	478	4,943	10.3
1989*	500	7,500	15.0

* Estimate
Source: Centre for Management Buy-out Research, University of Nottingham



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Addison wins approval for buy-out of design offshoot

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Charterhouse Development Capital arranged the management-led acquisition of Oyez Stationery and invested £4.75 million in share capital.

Olivers agrees £10m buy-out

Charterhouse arranged the equity syndicate and debt financing for the management buy-out of the Olivers retail bakery chain.

Ferranti £19.5m sale confirmed

Charterhouse co-led the £19.5 million acquisition of Ferranti's service and maintenance division by ServiceTel, an earlier management buy-in investment.

MBOs still pull in the investors

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Accountants and lawyers play an increasing role, says Matthew Bond — and the rewards can be high

Firm partners

An accountant is "a diligent hand-holder," according to David Carter, one of a growing band of accountants making buyout industry.

Carter, who heads the corporate finance team at accountancy firm KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, says the role of the accountant has changed over the years. As sources of finance become more varied, the accountant has become a sort of honest broker, putting the right management proposition in touch with the right funding institution.

Like all accountancy firms,

Peat's involvement can vary from a full advisory role to simply carrying out due diligence for one of the providers of finance.

As an auditor, Peat's is in regular contact with businesses which might be ripe for a buyout, while Carter, as a buyout specialist, knows which funds to show to a suitable candidate. Having found the right business for a buyout, Carter prefers to put the proposition to three or four funding sources because "when you put them under a bit of competition they work harder".

He claims accountants are the natural advisers in management buyouts, but "the merchant banks have ignored

them with the exception of Schroders and Charterhouse". He believes that could change if the economic climate changes and bigger buyouts come back into fashion.

Carter is sceptical about going to a lawyer. "You could I suppose, but there are not that many lawyers who passed their book-keeping exams first go," he says wryly.

Accountants will always have an advantage over merchant banks and, to a lesser extent, lawyers. They can pitch their advisory fees to take into consideration the fact that a successful buyout team will require an auditing accountant.

Peat's has been retained as the auditor of all 17 buyouts,

worth more than £10 million, that Carter has worked on.

Similarly, the rewards of a continuing relationship with a successful buyout to some extent explains the greater role of lawyers — with the ultimate prize being legal adviser to the public flotation of a successful buyout business in three or four years' time. But it is a fact of corporate life that it takes a brave businessman to do anything without the advice of his legal team.

On the bigger buyouts, these teams are substantial — Douglas Colliver, a senior partner in the buyout team for law firm Norton Rose, says: "We sometimes have teams of 12 on a large transaction."

Norton Rose has advised on the MFI, Reedpack and Alders buyouts. Like accountants, lawyers can act for the management team or the senior lenders.

Colliver says the lawyer's role in a buyout complements, rather than competes with, other advisers. "It is true to say that lawyers do not have to be the first there. Usually we get involved when the management team has got the green light for a deal. The lawyer really is very much in tandem with the financial institutions." But when it comes to introductions to banks, a lawyer's contacts can be hard to beat, he says.

Colliver says that from the minute they are called in the lawyers' role is crucial. "We're trying to document the deal, but at the same time we're trying to influence its structure," he says. "The single most important factor is the ability to understand all the individual elements." Getting the details right can be vital to the future of the buyout, especially balancing the ambitions of the buyout management and their institutional backers.

Complicated they may be, but Colliver believes buyouts have too much of an air of the mystique about them. "In fact, you're talking about a combination of an acquisition transaction and a venture capital transaction."



Team spirit: Lawyer Douglas Colliver dislikes the "mystique"

Involvement of solicitors in larger MBOs

	Acting for Deal leader	Managers	Total
Clifford Chance	47	21	68
Ashurst Morris Crisp	27	9	36
Allen & Overy	19	7	26
Slaughter & May	8	11	19
Freshfields	15	3	18
Herbert Smith	10	8	18
Macfarlanes	10	3	13
St Legal	12	-	12
Alepp Wilkinson	2	9	11
Dickson Minto	3	8	11
Evershed Wells & Hind	1	10	11
Norton Rose	1	6	7
Lovell White Durrant	5	4	9
Travers Smith Brattwaite	5	4	9
Cameron Markby	6	2	8
Linklater & Paines	5	3	8
Simpson Curtis	1	7	8
Turner Kenneth Brown	1	7	8
Wragge & Co.	1	6	7
Nabarro Nathanson	3	4	7
S.J. Berwin	3	4	7
Dobb Lupton Broomfield	1	5	6
Wilde Sapte	5	-	5
Berwin Leighton	2	2	4
Dundas & Wilson	2	2	4
Kimbell & Co.	1	4	5
McGrigor Donald	1	3	4
Simmons & Simmons	1	3	4
Biddle & Co.	1	2	3
Gouldens	1	2	3
Theodore Goddard	1	3	4
Others	15	58	73
Not known/none	23	18	41
Eliminate duplications	(11)	(6)	(17)
	230	230	460

Source: Peat Marwick McLintock (January 1, 1990)

Involvement of accountants in larger MBOs

	No of MBOs
Peat Marwick McLintock	23
Ernst & Young	22
Deloitte, Haskins & Sells	20
Pricewaterhouse	19
Touche Ross	18
Arthur Andersen	17
Coopers & Lybrand	17
Solomon & Oppenheimer	7
Grant Thornton	6
Others	9
Not known/none	16
Eliminate duplications	(6)
	230

Source: Peat Marwick McLintock (January 1, 1990)

The finance fixers

Who arranges the funding? And why have they grown more cautious lately?

Arrangers of management buyouts, unlike arrangers of conventional mergers and acquisitions, are often more keen on taking a slice of the equity rather than charging a big fee for their services.

Different attitudes are adopted by bankers, who are more interested in straight lending against assets and fee collection, from, for example, venture capital groups, which often become intimately concerned and connected with the company by taking a stake in it. Both types of arrangers believe they are best qualified to structure the funding and syndicate the deal.

Until recently, new players in the management buyout (MBO) and buyin (MBI) sector were increasing rapidly. However, the refinancing of the MBI at Lowndes Queensway and the Magnet and MFI MBOs has caused a few players to pause and reconsider their exposure.

For example, Royal Bank of Scotland, partly through its venture capital arm Charterhouse Development Capital, has an exposure of more than £750 million to various leveraged buyout deals.

"Continued high interest rates and poor market prospects in some sectors have produced a crisis of confidence in completing large deals, particularly among occasional investors and some foreign banks," according to the Centre for Management Buyout Research at Nottingham University.

"Institutions which have entered buyouts with a short time horizon to exit are also likely to face continued problems in 1990, but investors with a longer-term perspective will be in a stronger position. 1990 seems likely to see a fall in the number of participating institutions in the market for the first time."

Prudential Venture Managers, for example, will invest

Equity lead financings in UK MBOs and MBIs (1987-89 sec qtr)

	No of deals	Value (£m)
3i	307	50
County Natwest Ventures	50	20
Charterhouse Development Capital	20	20
Barclays Development Capital	25	20
Lloyds Development Capital	20	20
CIN	12	12
Midland Montagu Ventures	12	12
Schroder Ventures	11	11
Citicorp VC	11	11
Granville	11	11
Murray Ventures	11	11

Note: Figures exclude European deals by UK institutions. Lead financier is taken as being where the institution's role is at least that of co-lead underwriter.

Source: Centre for Management Buyout Research, University of Nottingham

between £500,000 and £20 million in an MBO or MBI. In the 18 months ended June 30 1989, Prudential had participated in 21 MBOs and MBIs, and was the lead financier in four deals with a value of more than £25 million each.

Paul Brookes, managing director, believes some sectors — particularly retail — will be considered too risky by bank arrangers/investors while interest rates stay high and sales in the high street remain depressed, resulting in restricted cash flow.

But the returns can be spectacular. In 1987 Prudential invested £500,000 in United Precision Industries, the UK's biggest manufacturer of bearings. Last month the investment was repaid six-fold when the UPI's 40 managers sold to Nippon Seiko.

The biggest venture capital provider in the UK is 3i, which is backed by the major banks and the Bank of England. Over an 18-month period, 3i invested in 353 MBOs and buy-ins, more than any other institution, and was lead financier on 307 deals.

Angela Mackay

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THE ACTION BANK

550 من الأصل

The traditional base of independent education is being challenged by a new emphasis as technology enters the prep school syllabus, Douglas Broom writes

The Independent Schools Joint

A former primary school teacher, Jinks has been given the job of spreading the technology gospel among Britain's 1,600 preparatory schools by the Westminster Centre, the independent sector's design and technology think-tank.



His first task was to unscramble many of the misconceptions which have attended the rise of technology within the curriculum. It evolved out of woodwork and metalwork to become "craft, design and technology" or CDT. By the middle of the 1980s, computers had appeared beside the lathes and chisels.

The embryo National Curriculum reduced the title to "design technology" and a working party was set up under Lady Parkes to recommend study programmes.

By the time its report appeared "design" had been dropped from the title and there was less emphasis on technology being taught as a distinct subject.

Although the final details have yet to emerge, technology in the state school curriculum is likely to be taught on its own and as part of other subjects. Pupils will be encouraged to write essays in English on word processors and use information technology in other subjects, such as graphic design in art.

Warwick Girls Preparatory School has invited the Princess Royal to open its new design and technology centre in July, which cost £500,000 to build and £16,000 to equip. The headmistress, Miss Elizabeth Major, is keen that her school should follow the National Curriculum and she believes technology is popular with parents.

He is keen to see the traditional subject divisions swept away but accepts that common entrance still constrains the way teaching must be handled for the 11-14 age group. "There is no reason why we should not be able to change the way we teach in the long run. Common entrance will have to change to meet the needs of children."

All of which is music to Jinks's ears. "It is clear that things are moving our way. It will take time. But I will be very surprised if, in 10 years time, the prep school curriculum looks anything like it does today."

**SOUTHWELL
MINSTER CHOIR**
The Cathedral will be holding
voice trials on March 17th for
boys aged between 8 and 10.
Education at the Minster School
is free and help is given with
boarding fees. The choir sings
every day and leads a vigorous
and rewarding existence.

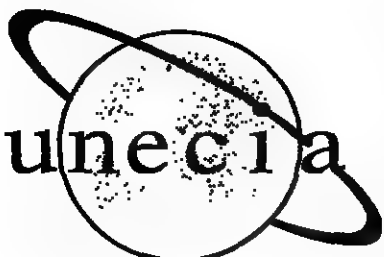
Details from:
**The Headmaster,
Minster School,
Nottingham Road, Southwell,
Notts NG25 0BG.**
(01535-414000).

01-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

POSTS

UNIVERSITIES OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Marketing Information Assistant

Applications are invited for the post of Marketing Information Assistant working initially half time for UNECIA and half time for the University of Sheffield. The successful candidate will be based in the Marketing and Sponsorship Office where the consortium is based.

UNECIA is a new organisation set up to stimulate and to market the development and skills of the 10 constituent universities (Birmingham, Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Salford, Sheffield and York).

With UNECIA you will be responsible for the compilation and maintenance of the database, for identifying market opportunities for UNECIA, for providing services to world agencies, United Nations organisations, the World Bank and other Development Banks, and for assisting in liaison with the constituent and the constituent universities.

With the University of Sheffield you will assist in the organisation of the University's major fundraising and sponsorship activities. You will, therefore, be highly motivated, possess entrepreneurial skills and have the ability to relate to both academic and professional staff in a wide variety of contexts.

The post will be for a fixed term of 3 years in the first instance on the salary scale £9,161 to £12,879 or £16,665 depending on age and experience.

Further information may be obtained from, and applications sent to: Mrs G M Monaghan, UNECIA, The University of Sheffield S10 2TN. (Closing date 23 February 1990).

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

DEPARTMENT OF MINING AND MINERAL ENGINEERING

CHAIR OF MINERAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the Chair of Mineral Engineering. The Chair will be held within one of the largest departments of Mining and Mineral Engineering in the United Kingdom, formed by the merger of the Department of Mining and Mineral Engineering at Leeds and the Department of Mining at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne; and the person appointed will have an opportunity to assist in shaping the development of the new department. Applicants should have international prominence and a record of scholarly distinction. The successful applicant will be expected to teach, to conduct and oversee a vigorous research programme, to foster mutually beneficial industrial relationships and to develop interdisciplinary links within the University. The salary will be within the Professorial range.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT (tel 0532-335895 direct line), quoting reference number 71/14. Applications (two copies) giving details of age, qualifications, publications and experience should reach the Registrar not later than 30 March 1990. Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by Fax (Group 2/3) (0532-334123 or 336017) or by telex (555473 UNILDS G), naming three referees, preferably at least one in the United Kingdom. The University of Leeds is an Equal Opportunities employer.

SOUTH BANK POLYTECHNIC

Department of Estate Management

SENIOR LECTURER

in Project Management and Management

£17,514 - £20,853 (pay award pending)

An excellent opportunity has arisen to join an enthusiastic and experienced team dedicated to providing high quality education for surveyors and the property industry. This key post in Management will involve teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The successful candidate will be required to make a major contribution to the MSc Course in Property Development (Project Management).

You will hold a professional qualification relevant to the Built Environment, and preferably have a qualification in Management and/or Business Studies at postgraduate level. You are likely to have practical experience and/or teaching in Project Management/Management within the area cognate to the work of the Faculty.

Opportunity for research and consultancy in support of the subject will be given.

To discuss this opportunity informally, please telephone Barry Redding, Head of Department on 01223 9589 Ext 3049.

Applications and further details are available from the Personnel Department, South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Tel 01 525 3512 (extending service 9.00am to 5.00pm).

Please quote Ref: AEM12

Closing date: 21st February 1990

AN Equal Opportunities Employer



UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Chairs in UEA History NORWICH

Applications are invited for two chairs in History, in English History in the School of English and American Studies, and in European History in the School of Modern Languages and European History. The Chair in English History arises following the retirement of Professor Robert Ashton and Professor James Jones, and is available from April 1991; that in European History arises from the appointment of Professor Richard Evans to a chair in the University of London, and is available from October 1990.

The University of East Anglia is a major British centre for historical scholarship and teaching, with more than 30 faculty within three large interdisciplinary Schools. We are seeking outstanding scholars with a proven record of academic leadership in their fields, who will contribute to the future development of history in the University. Salary will be by negotiation within the professional salary range (minimum £24,785 per annum).

Applications (five copies), giving full particulars of age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom references may be made, should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, (telephone 0603 592208) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 19 March 1990.

The University is an equal opportunities employer.

The University of Hull

Chair in Psychology

Applications are invited for a CHAIR

in the Department of Psychology,

School of Life Sciences. Within the

Department there is a wide range of

expertise, especially focused in areas

of applied psychology. Candidates

should have an established reputation

in an area which would augment

existing research and teaching.

The Chair is available from

1 October 1990.

Salary by negotiation—minimum

£24,785 p.a.

Interested persons are invited to

discuss the appointment with

Dr D J Williams, Head of the Department

of Psychology, on 0482 465546.

Written details are available from

the Senior Personnel Officer,

University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX

(0482 465263) to whom applications,

including CV and details of three

academic referees, should be addressed.

Closing Date: 28 February 1990.

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL SALISBURY



The Governors of THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, an Independent

Proprietary School, invite applications for the post of

HEAD

which becomes vacant in September 1991 on the retirement

of Mr Michael Blee after 17 years as Headmaster.

Full details and application forms may be obtained from:

The Clerk, The Cathedral School, Salisbury

SP1 2EP

Closing date for applications: Monday 5th March 1990

St. Dunstan's College

- HMC, 820 Boys

Graduate Biologist required for September 1990 to teach

to A-Level in an expanding department.

Own salary scale well above Inner London "Baker".

For an experienced teacher an additional allowance will

be available. Involvement in extra curricular activities,

with a preference for CCF and boys' games, will be a

strong recommendation.

Further details from the Headmaster to whom

application should be made by Friday, 23rd February.

St. Dunstan's College,

Stannard Road, Causton, SE6 4TY.

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DENSTONE COLLEGE

Near Uttroter, Staffs.

Following the appointment of Mr F.M. Ridley as

Principal of The Royal Belfast Academical

Institute, the Midland Chapter of the Woodard

Schools invites applications for the:

HEADSHIP

Of Denstone College, which becomes vacant on 1st

September 1990. Applications form and details from:

Secretary, Woodard Schools,

14a The Square, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LN.

Tel: Shrewsbury (0743) 56038.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12th February 1990.

GODOLPHIN SCHOOL SALISBURY

DEPUTY HEAD - PASTORAL

(E incentive)

GSA - GBOA. 315 pupils, 60 in Sixth Form.

Required for September 1990 or earlier, a Director of

Pastoral Care to join a newly created team of three

pastoral heads, the other two having responsibility for

administration and the curriculum. This is an exciting

opportunity for someone with initiative and outstanding

interpersonal skills both with pupils and other staff. The

reorganisation of the school's management has allowed

the creation of this post of considerable seniority and it

reflects the important emphasis placed by Godolphin on

excellent pastoral care through the well established

tutorial system. Particular responsibilities will include

Head of the Sixth Form, and it is expected that the

successful candidate will also be able to take charge of

careers education and foster links with industry.

Godolphin School has recently opened a new Science

and Technology building and has an expanding Sixth

Form. This is a chance for someone with ambition to

join a successful team.

For further details please contact the Headmaster,

Godolphin School, Salisbury SP1 2RA, telephone 0722

333054.

Closing date for applications Wednesday 28 February.

CLIFTON COLLEGE Bristol

HMC co-educational boarding school 13-18

As a result of promotions to Head of

Department posts and to Deputy Headmaster,

applications from suitably qualified men and

women are invited for the following

appointments from September 1990:

Head of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Assistant teachers in:

PHYSICS

GERMAN

MATHEMATICS (2 posts)

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games, music, drama, scientific research.

Accommodation may be available.

Please write for further details to:

The Headmaster, Clifton College

Bristol BS8 3JH

tel 0272 735945 or fax 0272 733274

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

UNIVERSITY FINANCE DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the above position. The

finance director will be a member of the University's

Executive Group and will be responsible directly to

the Principal and Vice-Chancellor for the

administration of all the University's financial

services. The person appointed will be expected to

make a significant contribution to the continued

improvement of the financial performance of the

University. Applicants should possess considerable

experience in management accounting and have the

communication skills needed to establish and

maintain a synergistic relationship between the

finance service and the main activities of the

University. They should also have the expertise

relevant to the introduction and refinement of

systems, processes and procedures relating to

Actual, Budgetary and Planning data sets.

The salary will depend on the successful

candidate's level of experience. The position is

available at the earliest mutually convenient date.

Applicants should write in confidence, enclosing a

detailed curriculum vitae and indicating expected

salary level, to the Director of Personnel Services,

The University, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife

KY16 9AU no later than 23rd February 1990.

CATERHAM SCHOOL SURREY

BURSAR

The Governors of Caterham School invite

applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the

Governors on the retirement of the present Bursar

in August 1990. Caterham School is an

Independent Boarding/Day School with 700 pupils

in the Preparatory and Main Schools, ages 4-18.

The Headmasters are members of IAPF and HMC.

The Bursar's post is residential.

Areas of responsibility include finance, and

budgeting, buildings and grounds, maintenance

and development, catering and domestic duties,

with a non-teaching staff of over 100.

Salary will be based on qualifications and

experience.

Further details may be obtained

on application in writing to:

The Headmaster,

Caterham School, Caterham Valley,

Caterham Surrey CR3 6YA

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School and Sixth Form.

690 pupils aged 11 - 18.

Required for April or September, 1990, a well

qualified graduate to teach ENGLISH to

G.C.S.E., as part of a major department in a

school with a strong tradition in English and

Drama.

There will also be some opportunities for some

Sixth Form teaching and for participation in a

wide range of extra-curricular activities,

especially Drama.

Applications, with curriculum vitae and names

and addresses of two referees, should be sent as

soon as possible to the Headmaster, Brentwood

School, Essex, CM15 8AS (tel. 0277-214580),

from whom further details are available.

SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

School Teacher Bye-Fellowship

The College hopes to elect one or two School

Teacher Bye-Fellows (non-stipendiary) for the

Lent Term 1991. Full details and application

forms are available from The Master's Secretary,

Selwyn College, Cambridge, CB3 9DD. All

applications must be received by 1 March 1990.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

MONASH UNIVERSITY Melbourne, Australia

CHAIR OF METEOROLOGY

Applications are invited for a Chair of Meteorology

in the Department of Meteorology.

This Foundation Chair offers a unique opportunity for

working with excellent students in applied meteorology

and collaborating with the Australian Bureau of

Meteorology, which is affiliated with Monash

University. The successful candidate will have a

strong background in physical meteorology and

climate applications, spanning theoretical, numerical

and through a well-equipped laboratory, experimental

and field studies. An MSc in Dynamical Meteorology is

supported by the Bureau of Meteorology, and the

University has recently established a Centre for

Dynamical Meteorology to focus research in this

area. The successful candidate will have a full role in

the Department, and have special responsibility for the

graduate programme in dynamical meteorology. There

are currently about 25 graduate students in the group.

Salary: A\$65,817 per annum. Superannuation, travel

and removal allowance, and temporary housing

allowance.

Information on application procedure and further

particulars may be obtained from Professor R.L. Morton

Department of Meteorology, Monash University,

Clayton, Victoria, 3168, Australia, or Appointment

(07496). Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36

Gordon Square, London WC1H 0DF, UK. Further

information of an academic nature may be obtained

from the Registrar, Monash University, Clayton,

Victoria, 3168, Australia, or Appointment (07496).

Enquiries/clarifications of interest should preferably

reach the Registrar not later than Friday 30 March

1990. Council reserves the right to make an

appointment or to appoint by extension at any stage.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The University of Hull

SCHOOL OF ARTS

Chair of English

Applications are invited for

appointment to a CHAIR OF ENGLISH

available from 1 October 1990.

Candidates should be established

scholars with a strong research record in

any field of English studies, although

preference may be given to specialists in

Twentieth Century and/or

Commonwealth literature.

If Maggie wanted the Banks to gamble on a loan
I'm sure she'd approve of my little gamble to pay it back.



Sam Kiley asks sixth-formers if the loans scheme is influencing their education plans

aries paid from the public purse. Low students will merely fill in a form, get a stamp from their parent institution proving they are a student, and a few weeks later they will receive a cheque through the post. Involving the banks was the equivalent of putting a £12 postage stamp on a letter.

The day after the Labour Party published the leaked memo, "Westminster sources" let it be known that they were planning to privatize the student loans company.

They said that financial organizations would fall over themselves to buy access to the financial profiles of graduates — the names and addresses would be valuable enough to mail order companies to tempt them to buy the loans company.

According to Rodney Austin, senior lecturer in public law at University College London, it is unlawful to use information stored on computer for any purpose other than that for which it was gathered. The company could be deterred if it attempted to sell the information to a third party without the consent of the students.

If there is no plan to force students, through loans, to pay the full cost of their living expenses, the loans scheme will be a

vet, said: "Loans have not affected my decision to go to college, but others will be tempted away by job offers at 18. People are very worried."

A fellow student, Mark Benson, said: "The Government is denying everyone's right to a free education which has been basic to the

'Loans have not a but others will be t

Welfare State since 1945. The Government sees everything in terms of monetary value - it is trying to turn the system back to the Victorian era."

Stuart Downing, also at Skegness, was the only student who said loans might stop him going to college. He plans to take a year off

be a disincentive to return to "capitalism".

At Bullers Wood School, Chislehurst, East Sussex, Natasha Cowood and Helen Palmer both agreed that the introduction of means would "mean that university studies become even more elitist". Cowood said: "If they stopped

affected my decision, tempted by job offers

most of this defence expenditure more money would be available for education and this would be a better country."

Most students do not get a full grant and rely on their parents to make up the difference, but most of the pupils interviewed said their parents are opposed to loans.

halt School, Hillingdon, west London, said: "My mum is not keen on me leaving college with a debt hanging over me, especially if I wanted to settle down and get my own flat."

Donna Meades, also at Bishopstoke, said: "I will be paying enough in taxes - why can't they take the cost of my education out of them?"

Magda Seaton, of King Edward VI School, in Morpeth, Northumberland, said: "People will feel they should study vocational courses so they can pay off their loan when they leave college."

The DES has not said how much the new scheme will cost, but it will certainly be cheaper than using the banks. And while opposition to the scheme may pass, being little more than a fear of the unknown, ministers can be sure of an angry reaction if they try to abolish grants - and they argue

'Loans have not affected my decision, but others will be tempted by job offers'

Welfare State since 1945. The Government sees everything in terms of monetary value — it is trying to turn the system back to the Victorian era."

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The teachers' unlikely champion

is committed to the free market, perhaps even more than the Prime Minister, and certainly more than her Treasury colleagues who set the artificial limit of £500 million on this year's teachers' pay award.

For Chilver the equation is simple and has been the hall-mark of his career: you cannot get something for nothing.

Britain needs to improve the lot of its teachers, whose status and salaries have been steadily eroded for 20 years. They have also had to cope with the introduction of the National Curriculum and the GCSE exams. His answer is to

reward good work with higher salaries and incentives. Because the Government shelved plans to introduce a scheme for teacher appraisal last year, it has still to solve the problem of identifying and cutting out dead wood.

Incentive allowances ranging from £858 to £5,500 will be paid to teachers taking on additional responsibility. Primary heads will receive an extra £2,000 a year, and the average salary for primary school teachers will rise from £13,495 to £14,615. In the secondary sector, the average salary will rise from £15,002 to £16,247.

Chilver also tackled recruitment: good honours graduate will start on £12,000 a year in London and £10,500 outside the capital – almost exactly the average starting salaries for graduates.

Chilver has come up with a Thatcherite solution that has embarrassed the Government, which had asked him to boost morale of teachers with a pay settlement limited (at 7.6 per cent) to just under the rate of inflation.

But Chilver is no maverick. In fact, he has been one of Mrs Thatcher's favourite trouble-shooters. In 1980 she hired him (at

£10,000 a year for a one-day week to act as temporary chairman of the Post Office when telecommunications were severed from the postal branch. In 1980 he was also chairman of the Electronics Economic Development Committee, and in 1982 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

It was the Callaghan administration which knighted Chilver, a distinguished electrical and structural engineer, for his achievement as vice-chancellor in turning the Cranfield Institute of Technology from a technical training branch of the aeronautical in-

He was an early supporter of robotics a subject which flourished at Cranfield. Chilver returned from Cranfield last year, aged 63, to concentrate on chairing the boards of English China Clay.

Universities Funding Council (UFC), the teachers' pay advisory committee, and his eight other directorships, which include [C]ommissioner of the [I]nland Revenue, [B]ASE International.

Chilver's academic career did not turn him into a devotee of state subsidy during the 1970s and 1980s. Indeed, since his appointment as the first chairman of the UFC he has set about organizing a bidding system to disburse public funds to universities on the basis of their ability to recruit students and the quality of their research departments. He has also said that he can see no reason why students should not be responsible for the full cost of their education while those who cannot afford to pay fees rely on "charity" from the Government or other institutions.

01-481 1066

TUITION

COURSES

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in South Asian Art and Archaeology. The Lecturer will be expected to develop research and teaching in the visual arts and material culture of South Asia, and to contribute to the development of the Department's research programme based on relevant field research and competence in the classical and/or modern South Asian languages. The successful candidate will be expected to have a high degree of professional competence as may seem desirable.

The appointment will date from 1 October 1990 or as soon thereafter as possible. The salary will be in accordance with the University's scale of pay, which is made on the London scale (£10,458-£15,323) or Lecturer B scale (£10,614-£12,469), plus £1,690 London Allowance (plus pension contributions).

Applications are available from The Secretary, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1E 7HU. Applications should be sent to the Secretary in the form supported by a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees. All applications should be sent by post to the Secretary.

Entries are now invited for the third annual Prize to be awarded in December 1990. This will not be less than £5,000. Closing date 1 September 1990. Full details from The Headmaster, The King's School, Canterbury CT1 2ES.

Applicants are invited for Lectureship in the Department of Classics. This is a remunerable position with initial appointment on the scale £2364 per annum, £2347 scale, plus annual increments. The University offers expenses for overseas appointments.

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications in Classics (including both Greek and Latin) and be prepared to contribute to courses in Classical Studies as well as in the original languages. Preference will be given to applicants whose special interests lie in the Law, and an interest in art history or numismatics. Art history may also be an advantage, and all applications will be treated on their merits.

The salary will be on either the Lecturer Grade A scale (£10,458 to £15,372 per annum) or the Lecturer Grade B scale (£10,014 to £10,469 per annum).

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Director of Personnel Services, The University of Cambridge, 100 Brook Road, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ to whom applications should be sent to arrive no later than 15 March 1990.

£13,389-£14,184 inc
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The Members Support Unit has been organised to provide an effective service to Members. Under the aegis of the Unit Co-ordinator, the unit is split into separate functional areas. Minority Affairs is headed by the Group Secretary and the Council, the Group Secretary comprises the MP, Policy Assistant and a Members Panel Assistant (part-time).

We are now looking for someone to close the ranks of the Opposition to carry out research and the administrative functions for the Conservative Minority Unit. This calls for a thorough knowledge of local and central government, and of the major issues currently facing the Conservative Party. The person to the Equal Opportunities Policy.

Because of under-representation at area, applications from black people, people with disabilities are particularly welcome. Ref: SEC.

For an application form and job description, please contact: Borough Secretary, Council Room 332, Civic Suite, Lewisham Hall, Holford, London SE6 4RU. Tel: 695 0000 ext. 3308/9. Please quote a reference.

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The Times reports from the XIV Commonwealth Games in Auckland

Coe's career concluded in cruel anti-climax

HOW COE COMPARES WITH THE FINEST MIDDLE-DISTANCE RUNNERS

Let us acclaim the retirement of a great champion, however much we may regret the anti-climax of his final performance.

The pain of Sebastian Coe's last race, suffered with him to a degree by tens of thousands of admirers, was a cruel hand to be dealt to him by fate: the prize, physicians will tell you, of his own excellence.

For 21 years, since the age of 12, he has submitted his body to daily demands throughout the year that, by the time he was in his early twenties, exceeded the imagination of the ordinary man. Such is the delicate balance in the metabolism of a body brought to such a refined athleticism, that it is always highly vulnerable.

Six times in the 11 years since he began destroying world records, Coe's ambitions in leading championships have been undermined by illness in the European Championships and Commonwealth Games in 1982, the world championships of 1983, the Commonwealth Games in 1986, the world championships of '87, the Olympic Games of '88, and now this year's Commonwealth Games.

Last week's miserable frustration, denying him even the opportunity to demonstrate what many disbelievers at 33 he was still in condition to take on the best in the world, he found the

Arthur Lydiard, of New Zealand, resident in Auckland, is arguably the most successful living coach of middle-distance runners: the man who guided Peter Snell, the Olympic champion of Rome and Tokyo, and who created the training programme in Finland which produced, in Munich, the Olympic champions, Pekka Vasala, in the 1,500 metres, and Lasse Viren, in the 5,000 and 10,000 (David Miller writes).

Sitting alongside the training track during the Commonwealth Games, I debated with Lydiard the relative merits of the outstanding post-war runners, although such comparisons are always difficult because of changing conditions and competitions. Not

most galling of all, Caroline Secor, the press officer of the British Olympic Association, was moved to say: "It was harrowing to witness at the warm-up track, him being brought near to tears by the realization that he was too unwell to run."

Few people know or understand the private commitment of effort and emotion by people such as Peter Elliott, triumphant champion for the first time on Saturday, of Coe, Cram, Aouita and all great runners. For all the cynicism of those who jealously refer to the material rewards, Coe has

surprisingly, Lydiard considers that Snell, with his combination of speed and endurance, and unbeaten in leading championships, would never have been defeated.

Contrary to a recent assessment attributed to Lydiard, he considers both Sebastian Coe and Kip Keino would have beaten Herb Elliott.

His relative doubts about Elliott concern his lack of speed over two laps. Combining the judgement of Lydiard, with my own opinion, a ranking list of champions - which must always be arbitrary and controversial - is given alongside, with Coe and Aouita equal second behind Snell; Keino, Overt and Cram equal fourth.

PETER SNELL

New Zealand. Born December 17, 1932, Otago.
Personal bests: 800 metres: 1min 44.3sec; 1,000 metres: 2:16.6; 1,500 metres: 3:37.6; mile: 5:54.1.
World records: 800 metres: 1:44.3 (1962); 1,000 metres: 2:16.6 (1962); 1,500 metres: 3:37.6 (1962); mile: 5:54.1 (1962).
Championships: 1960 Olympic Games: 800 metres, 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.
1964 Olympic Games: 800 metres, 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.
1968 Olympic Games: 800 metres, 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.
1972 Olympic Games: 800 metres, 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.

SEBASTIAN COE

Great Britain. Born September 29, 1955, London.
Personal bests: 800 metres: 1min 47.5sec; 1,000 metres: 2:12.18; 1,500 metres: 3:29.77; mile: 5:42.33 (1979); 1.41.73 (1981); 1,000 metres: 2:13.40 (1980); 2:12.18 (1981);

SAID AOUTITA

Morocco. Born November 2, 1959, Algiers.
Personal bests: 800 metres: 1min 43.86sec; 1,000 metres: 2:15.18; 1,500 metres: 3:29.46; mile: 5:48.78.
World records: 1,000 metres: 2:08.81 (1982); 1,500 metres: 3:29.46 (1982); mile: 5:48.78 (1982).
Championships: 1984 Olympic Games: 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.
1987 world championships: 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, mile.

KIPCHOGE KEINO

Kenya. Born January 1, 1940, Kapkaso.
Personal bests: 800 metres: 1min 45.46sec; 1,000 metres: 2:13.40; 1,500 metres: 3:29.46; mile: 5:48.78.
World records: 1,000 metres: 2:08.81 (1982); 1,500 metres: 3:29.46 (1982); mile: 5:48.78 (1982).

STEVE CRAM

Great Britain. Born October 14, 1960, Glastonbury.
Personal bests: 800 metres: 1min 42.88sec; 1,000 metres: 2:12.68; 1,500 metres: 3:29.67; mile: 5:46.32.

HERB ELLIOTT

Australia. Born February 25, 1938, Subiaco, near Perth.
Personal bests: 800 yards: 1min 47.3sec; 1,000 yards: 2:19.1; 1,500 yards: 3:35.4; mile: 5:54.5.
World records: 1,500 metres: 3:26.0 (1958); 3:35.4 (1960); mile: 5:54.5 (1958).
Championships: 1958 Commonwealth Games: 800 yards, mile.
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Never lost at 1,500 metres or mile.

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World records and big money beckon former nearly-man

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

Champion, as they say in Yorkshire. It was the word with which Peter Elliott had longed to be associated. "Now I can say I'm a champion," he said. The Rotherham joiner was Commonwealth 1,500 metres gold medal winner and the worry was over.

Out came that favourite word again. "I didn't want to retire from athletics having never been a champion." A fourth, a third and two second places in his five international championships had been playing on his mind. "I'm not the nearly-man anymore," he said. Suddenly the talk was of world records and big money, but do not expect him to give up his job.

He had that chance in 1987. He was invited to take a year off work with pay to train for the Olympics. He turned it down. "How could I face my

workmates if I didn't win a gold medal?" he said.

Nobody says anything unkind about Elliott because there is nothing unkind to say. In his finest moment, he was insistent that John Walker, a faller but gallant finisher, should share in his lap of honour at his press conference he was embarrassed when he realized he had monopolized the interview time and tried, unsuccessfully, to thrust the microphone into the hands of Peter O'Donoghue, the bronze medal winner. He is that sort of man, altruism in spikes.

It was no surprise, therefore, that Elliott tried to give the impression that he did not have much to do with his success. "It's really down to good coaching," he said. He was referring to Kim McDonald, former Yorkshire 5,000 metres champion, now a champion coach and agent. McDonald has fixed up Elliott with a shot at earning in less than four minutes several times as much as he could make in a year at his work bench. He will receive \$100,000 if he can break Eamonn Coghlan's world indoor mile best of 3min 49.78sec at Meadowlands, New Jersey, on Friday.

He will surely succeed. "I am in world-record shape," he said, as if we needed telling. His 3min 33.39sec, more than a second ahead of the young Kenyan, Wilfred Kirochi, was outburst on the wound which was opened when he was denied his greatest wish, to have Sebastian Coe run against him in the final.

Elliott is the first athlete to be coached by McDonald. The coach is confident of two things: that Elliott will gain the world record outdoors and keep his job. He bases his world record philosophy on Elliott's training times.

"The turning point was a week yesterday," McDonald said on the night of Elliott's triumph. "He ran a 2min 45sec 1,200 metres with a four-minute recovery then a 38.2sec 300 metres. Before Seoul (where he won the silver medal) he did 2min 49sec and 42sec."

"We are going to enter a new era as far as times go in the 1,500 metres and mile. Up to now people have said that going through 2min 50sec is fast, but when you get people like Peter thinking in terms of

2:45, we are going to low 3:40s for the mile and 3:25-3:26 for the 1,500 metres."

Walker, too, believes that Elliott, at 27, is destined for greater things. "I have never seen a guy train so hard - it's only a matter of time before he breaks the world record," Walker, the former Olympic 1,500 metres champion, said.

Elliott, we should not forget, was selected for these Games only after Steve Cram failed to recover fitness in time for a run-off for the 2,000 metres place. Cram will be pleased that one of his titles has gone to Elliott, but the other, the 800 metres, went to a Kenyan, Sam Tiroo.

The majority of British athletes had the problem of sustaining fitness from their summer at home through to one in New Zealand; but for those who were fresh, having missed much of their summer, there was no question of being stale. Liz McColgan, who took a voluntary break, and Jill Hunter, Christina Cahill and Elliott, who suffered injuries, all benefited from their break.

Cahill finished second in the 1,500 metres on Saturday to Angela Chalmers, of Canada, who had also won the 3,000 metres. Cahill's best time is 4min 00.57sec and she believes a sub four-minute run is still within her.

The Games failed to produce a world record but Steve Backley went close on the last day. His final-round throw of 86.02 metres improved his Commonwealth record and left him only 1.64 metres short of Jan Zelezný's world record. Michael Hill, reminded England that it has two world-class throwers. Hill threw 83.32 metres for second place.

Backley was the first England male athlete to win a field event competition in Auckland, but was not the last. An hour later Simon Williams won the shot with 15.54 metres. Curiously, England's only gold medals in the women's field events were won by Tessa Sanderson, in the javelin, and Myrtle Auger in the shot.

The England men won six of the 12 available gold medals on the track; the women won three from 11 (it should have been four but Paula Dunn was too quickly away from Simmone Jacobs on the last changeover of the sprint relay on Saturday and the error relegated them to silver).

McColgan gave Scotland their only gold; Wales won two, both from sprint hurdles, Colin Jackson and Kay Morley. There were no British winners in the marathons, walks or multi events.

In the telephone directory of the historic Northern Italian skiing town of Cortina D'Ampezzo there are 72 entries under the name of Ghedina. For the 9,000 strong crowd who lined the 1956 Olympic downhill run here on Saturday, only one mattered.

Kristian Ghedina, aged 20, son of a local electrician, became the only Cortina resident to win a World Cup event on the Toblans course.

Ghedina, who was considered a rank outsider, finished in 1min 34.99sec - 0.16sec ahead of the field.

Yesterday it was Austria's day. Helmut Hoeflechner skied a perfect race to register his 1984 victory on this course, his third win of the season.



Champion feeling: Walker, the former Olympic champion, congratulates Elliott on his title-winning 1,500m run

Athletes reveal anger in 'Friendly Games'

From David Powell

These were supposed to be the 'Friendly Games'. Mostly they were, but they did not end that way. In the final afternoon of athletics, John Walker was scathing of the Australian, Pat Scammell, for the clash during the 1,500 metres in which they both fell at 600 metres.

"I felt like whacking him. I was so annoyed," Walker said. "He always runs rough."

Then England's two sprint relay teams, men and women, wore black armbands in their finals to convey their disapproval of an incident in which England and another team were disqualified in the semi-finals of the men's 4 x 400 metres.

At a conference which recognized the need to assist the emerging countries in drug-testing programmes and to help them host the Games, African sports ministers said that football would be desirable not only because it was a sport at which they were likely to perform well, but also because it would attract the sponsorship and television support to help them stage the Games.

The ministers met in private but afterwards Peter Tapsell, the conference chairman for sport, said: "They said football would be more attractive to Africa than some of the sports we have now. They thought they would be better able to compete in it and that it would certainly have a greater attraction to the major world television channels. One sponsorship that might come through television might improve the viability of future Games."

Tapsell said he thought 1998 would be the most likely year for the possible introduction of football into the Commonwealth Games.

"Chief among our considerations are ways in which we might ensure that the Games can be held in some of the smaller and less affluent countries," he said.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS FROM AUCKLAND

Shaydon-Smith (NZ), 72.80; B. J. Argo (Aust), 70.74; S. P. Edwards (Wales), 69.10; M. Mahovlich (Can), 67.85; T. M. Koen (Aust), 65.84; C. T. Telford (Cyp), 62.35; J. S. Dumble (Eng), 48.78.

Women

1200 metres relay

1. A. Chalmers (Can), 4min 46.41sec; 2. C. Chalmers (Can), 4:46.78; 3. B. Nicholson (Eng), 4:49.00; 4. Y. Murray (Scot), 4:49.34; 5. L. McColgan (Scot), 4:50.12; 6. S. P. Edwards (Wales), 4:50.12; 7. M. B. Bannerman (Scot), 4:51.26; 8. M. Bannerman (Scot), 4:51.26; 9. M. Bannerman (Scot), 4:51.26; 10. M. Bannerman (Scot), 4:51.26; 11. C. Chalmers (Can), 4:51.26; 12. C. Chalmers (Can), 4:51.26.

4 x 100 metres relay

1. Australia (C. Fraser, K. S. Smith, K. Johnson, M. Dunsen), 43.87sec; 2. England (S. Douglas, J. Stiles, S. Jackson, P. Lane), 43.87sec; 3. Nigeria (Y. Yusuf, C. Opara, C. Alhassan), 44.87; 4. New Zealand, 44.77; 5. Canada, 44.77.

4 x 400 metres relay

1. England (A. Piggford, J. Stiles, S. Douglas, L

Promising Fort Noel can round off Fontwell double for Gifford

By Mandarin

Josh Gifford's exciting Irish import Fort Noel, on target for the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, has been presented with an easy preparation race in the Bet With The Tote Novices' Hurdle at Fontwell Park today.

With Paul Kelleway opting to send Stone Flake to Wolverhampton, the Findon seven-year-old has just two rivals, and one of those is his stable companion Eddie Kybo, who was comprehensively beaten into fourth place by Strong Gold at Plumpton on his latest start.

Fort Noel, having won a bumper and point-to-point in Ireland, put up one of the most impressive novice displays of the season on his first appearance in this country when spreading some useful rivals in a Philip Cornes qualifier at Haydock Park last month.

Fort Noel's victory should be a formality and form the second leg of a double for Gifford, initiated by Earl

Wolverhampton on

The Wolverhampton meeting goes ahead today, provided there is no further heavy rain. However, the race programme could be in jeopardy because of high winds.

Soham in the Clipping Conditional Jockeys' Chase.

Although outclassed by Decided at Kempton last month, Good Tonic had earlier made all to beat Master Rajh (winner since) at Windsor and Tim Etherington's capable seven-year-old should get back on the winning trail in the Racing Post Novices' Chase, while Michael Robinson's progressive Gay Moore can complete his fourth win in a row by

National Hunt leaders

outstaying Classy Boy in the Bognor Regis Handicap Chase.

There was plenty of confidence behind Jabrut when he made his seasonal debut in Yorkshire Holly's Haydock race in December, but Martin Pipe's five-year-old, after showing up well to the sixth flight, weakened rapidly and was pulled up.

This five-year-old is well thought of at Wellington and can make up for that disappointing effort by defying top weight against rather moderate opposition in the Chichester Handicap Hurdle.

Jenny Pitman looks worth following at Wolverhampton where the Upper Lambourn

trainer has high hopes of a double through Regal Lake (3.45) and Villa Recco (4.15).

Regal Lake, although not very big, has taken well to hurdling. He opened his account with a hard-fought victory over Lissahane Lass at Taunton and Peter Hedger's smart filly has won her two subsequent outings in impressive style.

Since then Regal Lake has been beaten twice but, with hindsight, that was no disgrace as he came up against Sudden Victory, one of the leading Tote Gold Trophy contenders, at Plumpton and later at Kempton, chased home Guy Harwood's smart flat recruit Royal Square, who is now firmly installed as the Triumph Hurdle ante-post favourite.

Regal Lake will not have matters all his own way in today's Stourbridge Four-Year-Old Hurdle, as Nicky Henderson's recent game Plumpton winner Badrakhan is in opposition, but his overall form looks superior and he is awarded the nap.

'The Shoe' given a fitting send-off



Willie Shoemaker is held aloft by (from left) Corey Black, Fernando Toro and Robbie Davis prior to the 58-year-old jockey's last race-ride at Santa Anita on Saturday. To the disappointment of the 50,000 crowd, Shoemaker could finish only fourth on Patrick Groundsford.

Rewarding return for talented Rhusted

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

Rhusted enjoyed a winning reappearance on Saturday in the open race at the Waverley Harriers point-to-point.

He had suffered a crashing fall at Cotenham on his final outing last season, resulting in James Fanshawe breaking a vertebra in his neck, which ended his riding career in favour of the launch of a training career on the flat.

Tim Moore has taken over in the saddle and has the even money favourite in the lead at halfway.

Rhusted looked to have the race well won before causing his backers some consternation by jumping to the right over the three fences in the straight. He was, however, not unduly pressed at the finish to hold off Newwood Nomad by four lengths with Stockman a further length behind.

After a successful spell under Rules for George Vergene, Perroquet returned to racing between the flags and over the presence of Beau N'didi and Wily Yeoman among the 15 starters, was installed 6-4 favourite for the ladies open.

The field went off at a terrific gallop and it was Philip Magill on Beau N'didi that took them along from the eighth until going out on the final circuit. Here Helen Vergene pushed Perroquet to the front with Wily Yeoman and Sky Grange in close attendance.

Two fences out the ex-John Jenkins trained Skyrange edged in front under Nicola Bowhay and was two lengths up and looking all over the winner when falling at the last, leaving the tired Perroquet to finish 10 lengths ahead of Wily Yeoman (Alexandra Embrook), with Beau N'didi a well-beaten third.

Tensing pulled himself well clear in the adjacent after Robert Gardner had the misfortune to break an iron. However, the lead had rapidly diminished turning for home and he was caught two out, he fell, breaking down in the process.

Trevor Whales was left in front on Fort Hall, despite looking in the paddock in need of a race, held on to win from Tim Moore on Midsummer Gladness by a neck.

Gardner later gained some compensation by winning the maiden with Scyllian holding off the strong state challenge of William Wales on Prince Nepal to reward his backers on the Tote at 17-1 and on the book at 5-1.

As is often the case at Higham, the bookmakers were a disgrace to their profession. One punter on being refused a £50 bet at 4-1 noted that the board showed a profit of over 50 per cent at the time.

It is pointless for the Point-to-Point Secretaries' Association to put so much effort into attracting new followers to the sport if once they get there such poor value is offered.

Saturday's results
OLD RAIL HUNT CLUB: Cheltenham 1. Glen Lough (D. Kinsella), 2. Inghy Star, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Ladies 1. Kinsella (D. Kinsella), 2. Inghy Star, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 1. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 2. Inghy Star, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 3. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 4. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 5. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 6. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 7. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 8. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 9. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 10. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 11. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 12. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 13. Inghy Star, 2. Midway Chaser, 3. Midway Chaser, 12 m. Open 14. Inghy Star, 2. 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UNDER-21 SQUAD: S Bamfield (Orpington), C Cook (Highdown, captain), S Davy (Leeds University), S Eyre (Portsmouth), K Harvey (Wimborne), F Lee (Walsfield), K Murphy (Sevensalls), R Pilkington (Sutton Coldfield), J Shaw (Sutton Coldfield), J Smith (Sevensalls), K Spencer (Crawe and Alesgar), J Staley (Oxtot), A Swindellshur (Bournemouth), J Toon (Sutton Coldfield), H Whalley (Cobwell), J Robertson (Wetwyn).

Arrogant England ignore script and reap the reward

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, St Kitts

The generally-accepted script for this West Indian tour was once again rejected yesterday in favour of something more sensible. England, having batted for 10 hours in sublime comfort, dismissed the Leeward Islands in less than half the time before, with just a hint of arrogance, declining to enforce the follow-on.

With a first innings lead of 188, and the opposition in some disarray with injuries, it could be argued that Graham Gooch's decision to bat again sacrificed England's best chance of a psychologically important win. But with an entire day still available to exploit the low bounce of this lifeless pitch, it was not entirely a negative option and scope remains to increase the profits of an already fruitful first game.

England won only one first-class match on their 1986 tour, in Jamaica, and even then they did not dominate quite as they have here. The Leeward Islands, after all, the Caribbean champions and formidable opposition even without Vivian Richards, who viewed yesterday's events from under his baseball cap with the amused expression of one who believes the serious business will be rather different.

He is assuredly right but England have still done everything that could have been asked of them. The batting has sensibly focused on crease occupation and, if the bowling was not uniformly impressive, Gladstone Small certainly gave cause for encouragement.

Even off the field things were looking up. In the nets on

a far corner of this engaging ground, overlooked by a cruise liner in the tiny harbour, Allan Lamb batted without reaction from his calf injury. He is expected to play in St Lucia on Thursday but prospects for the team's other invalid, Ricky Elcock, are no more than hopeful.

Elcock's back condition has been subjected to a variety of treatment, including acupuncture, but the management is not prepared to wait

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for him indefinitely; if he cannot play in the next game a replacement will be summoned — probably the deserving Steve Watkins.

Another perfect day began in arresting fashion, Devon Malcolm taking two wickets in four balls. His direction had let him down the previous evening but now, operating from wide of the crease and angling the ball into the right-handers, he dismissed Otis Ibru and then bowled the casual Anthony off the inside edge.

Small was having early trouble with his line, often drifting the ball towards the slips, but he took the most important wicket of all with a rare short one. Richardson, who had dispatched many such deliveries with relish on Saturday evening, connected only with the top edge and Small, following through, got to the catch just ahead of the on-rushing Russell.

Malcolm persevered for an hour before giving way to DeFreitas, who struck in his

opening over. It was not a distinguished piece of cricket, Paris swatting a long-hop to mid-off but it raised the possibility of the innings ending before lunch.

Gooch might then have thought differently about the follow-on but he was saved the bother by a shoddy session of cricket in which England's bowlers lost their line, fielders lost their neatness and more than one player almost lost his temper. Even the wicket-keeping was strikingly anti-dry.

With Eldine Baptiste striking the ball with great freedom England's discipline received its first test and a few rough edges were exposed. But, after the eighth wicket pair had put on 76, both were out in consecutive overs to give Gooch and Larkins an hour

ENGLAND 2nd First Innings
To A Gooch c Harris b W K M Benjamin 40
W Larkins c and b Arthurton 107
A J Stewart c and b DeFreitas 12
R A Smith c and b DeFreitas 71
R Russell c and b DeFreitas 15
R J Bailey c and b Anthony 15
R C Russell not out 15
P A J DeFreitas not out 20
Extras (p 2, b 9, w 5, nb 4) 28
Total (5 wickets) 444

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-220, 3-364, 4-378, 5-380, 6-404.
BOWLING: K Benjamin 4-4-0, W K M Benjamin 21-3-28-1, Anthony 22-11-79-1, Baptiste 22-5-74-2, Gooch 22-11-25-2, S Arthurton 11-3-25-1, Otis 10-0-39-0.

LEEWARD ISLANDS First Innings
R Russell c and b Small 21
S Williams c and b Small 10
R B Richardson c and b Small 10
L J Arthurton c and b DeFreitas 7
R M Ocho c and b Malcolm 15
H Anthony c and b DeFreitas 15
Harris c and b DeFreitas 15
E A E Baptiste c and b Malcolm 81
N Richardson c and b Small 21
W K M Benjamin not out 0
K Benjamin not out 0
Extras (p 3, b 6, w 5, nb 1) 25
Total 220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-20, 3-72, 4-138, 5-158, 6-148, 7-172, 8-248, 9-255.
BOWLING: Malcolm 22-11-25-2, S Arthurton 11-3-25-1, DeFreitas 14-5-32-2, Malcolm 5-0-31-0.

Lineker's art of the possible

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Tottenham Hotspur 4
Norwich City 0



Goalbound: Lineker glides past Gunn, the Norwich City goalkeeper, at White Hart Lane

Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne, linked together for the first time since New Year's Day, yesterday re-launched Tottenham Hotspur's challenge for the championship. The prospect is improbable but, after an enchantingly unpredictable televised show, in which Norwich City played appreciably more than a bit part, anything would seem to be possible.

In winning the only fixture to be staged in London over the wet, wild and windy weekend, Tottenham jumped five places up the first division. Now fifth, they are still 13 points behind the leaders, Liverpool, but they do have a game in hand and nothing to distract them.

Knocked out of both the FA and Littlewoods Cups last month, Tottenham needed a fresh start. Terry Venables decided to do so without Stewart (omitted from the squad for the first time since being acquired from Manchester City), Samways, Allen and Thomas. All have been regular members of the side.

Although Venables preferred to ignore rumours of discontent at the club, there would appear to be a few discordant notes. Nor was his side, no longer protected by a sweeper, playing the same harmonious tune until midway through the first half. Before then, the principal conductor was Crook, a Tottenham old boy.

But in the 24th minute, Lineker made his first contribution. Norwich almost immediately lost their target man, Rosario, and the complexion of affairs at White Hart Lane began to change. At the heart of the fluctuating affair was Gascoigne, available for the first time since he broke his arm five weeks ago.

His selection seemed, initially, to have been too dangerous a risk. After being brushed by an opponent, he

grimaced in visible distress. "He was in a lot of pain," Venables confirmed later, "and showed great courage in keeping going. It is also a credit to his fitness that he finished the game".

Not only that: he and Howells shaped it. Together, they created the first goal for Lineker, who drifted around Gunn and scored with such panache that he seemed convinced thereafter that he would add to his and Tottenham's total every time he was released. On two occasions, he did.

Howells, finally glancing in Nayim's corner, claimed the second a few minutes before the interval, and Lineker, delightfully put through by Walsh, the third a few minutes after it. It was scarcely credible that Norwich, who had three times been thwarted by Thorsvedt, could have been so far behind.

Later, Townsend and Conney struck the same piece of woodwork, but Lineker, resembling the merciless finisher of old, could not be restrained. After the hour, he was brought down by Gunn as he chased another Howells pass. He converted the penalty himself to become the first division's leading scorer, with 16.

He left early, after a knock on a shin, but he had already done enough to be chosen as the man-of-the-match. The last first division player to claim three goals in a game — against Queen's Park Rangers in September, 159 fixtures ago — was Lineker.

Dave Stringer, who denied speculation that Crook might today be joining Coventry City for £750,000, paid tribute to England's centre forward but was justifiably bemused by the size of his side's defeat: "We played well again, but we didn't take care of the easier things".

Heigham: E Thorsvedt, C Houghton, P Van Den Ham, J Poulton, D Howells, G Maltby, P Walsh, P Gascoigne, N Howells, G Lineker (capt), P Morgan, S Stricker, Norwich City: B Gunn, I Colwellhouse, M Stewart, A Lister, A Townsend, D Gordon, R Pook, R Howells (capt), D Conney, I Crook, D Phillips (capt), J Straker.

SA government moves to secure safety of tour

From Richard Streston, Pietermaritzburg

As Mike Gatting and the management of the unofficial cricket tour reviewed their policy of meeting demonstrators, following the incident on Saturday when missiles were thrown at them, there were indications yesterday that the South African government has shifted its position about the tour's future.

It is understood that the cricket administrators have been told that the programme should be completed and they have been promised that all the necessary security will continue to be provided.

The feeling in Pretoria appears to be that unless there is a really serious escalation of violence, the propaganda value to be gained in the eyes of the outside world outweighs the disturbances that the tour might generate. For South

Africa to allow demonstrations, which can be rigidly controlled by the police, is considered preferable to any climb-down, which in any case has never been acceptable to the African majority.

On a smaller scale, therefore, this tour has become as

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much a political factor during these momentous times in the country's history as the impending release of Nelson Mandela. There was a period last week when sources in the government hinted that it was wavering about allowing the visit by Gatting's players to continue.

The South African Cricket Union (SACU), which has been in much more regular contact with the government than it would admit, must be

relieved. More than 100,000 tickets have been sold for the five-day and one-day representative fixtures.

Whether the situation changes after the first five-day international in Johannesburg this week remains to be seen. Inevitably, the protesting groups will be hoping to make their biggest impact so far, but it is widely anticipated that the demonstrators' marches will not be allowed as near the Wanderers ground as they have been to the venues used for the first three matches of the tour.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of SACU, stressed yesterday that it had been given government assurances as long ago as last November that the tour would in no way jeopardize the initiatives announced in parliament last Friday.

"While SACU fully appreciates and sympathizes with those organizations who are opposed to the tour, we still believe we owe it to cricket, and to all those people of all colours who are in favour of the visit, that it should continue," he said.

Bacher accompanied Gatting onto a makeshift stage outside the ground on Saturday to try to address 4,000 jeering demonstrators. It was when they gave up their attempt, and were being hustled back to the ground by security men along a 150-yard tunnel between protesters, that soft-drink cans, stones and sticks were thrown.

David Graveney, the team manager, and John Emburey, the vice captain, had also gone outside the ground, and Graveney and Emburey were both struck glancing blows on the back by cans.

Gatting had agreed to receive protest letters from the demonstrators, but for the second time found himself cornered. Instead of meeting the protesters at the gate, they asked him to walk through the crowd to the stage, where more people could see him.

Gatting agreed, but Graveney said that in future they might only meet protesters privately in the pavilion. "We shall wait and see and assess each ground and situation as it arises," he said.

Bacher described Gatting's behaviour as "one of the most heroic sporting actions off the field I have ever seen". Graveney said: "I have always had the greatest admiration for Mike as a person and that has been substantially increased by what happened. He is a remarkable man."

Should the English players' tour come to a premature end it will be up to the Cricket Council in England to decide if it wishes to apply to the International Cricket Council for a reduction in their five-year ban from Test matches. The ICC would consider an appeal at its meeting in London this summer.

Table not fair, says Higgins

By Steve Acteson

Alex Higgins criticized the playing conditions after losing 5-2 to Steve James in the qualifying round of the Benson & Hedges Masters snooker tournament at Wembley yesterday. The Irishman, a wild-card entry, described the conditions as "appalling" after suffering more than his fair share of that strange phenomenon which causes the balls to "kick" on contact.

"I was disgusted with the playing conditions," Higgins said. "The table was a disgrace. I've known worse conditions only once before, and that was at an exhibition."

There was certainly a general heaviness about the table and Higgins's mistrust of it was evident in the fifth and probably key frame. He missed a straightforward final ball, having earlier miscued on the simplest of blues.

James, who plays Stephen Hendry tomorrow night, agreed that the table was not up to par and even Len Owen, the tournament director, said: "We get our table from the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and you should expect the same conditions time after time."

Willie Thorne led Dennis Taylor 4-0 but did not settle matters until the ninth frame, with a break of 74.

RESULTS: Qualifying round: S James (Eng) 5-2 Higgins (Ire), G-C First round: W Thorne (Eng) 4-0 Taylor (N Ire), 5-4.

Williams defeated

Saint-Dizier, France (AFP) — Derek Williams, of Britain, the European heavyweight champion, lost his title to Maurice Chaneau, of France, on Saturday, and also ended up in hospital.

Williams was soundly beaten on points, after 12 rounds, and was admitted to a local hospital for observation. His condition was not thought to be serious. The Englishman had a good first round, and opened up a cut over Chaneau's left eye, but the Frenchman then took over.

Indoor record

Moscow (Reuters) — Lyudmila Narozhilenko, of the Soviet Union, set an indoor world record in the 60 metres hurdles of 7.71 seconds yesterday. Narozhilenko's mark, set at the Soviet athletics championships, beat the previous record of 7.73sec by Cornelia Osekhenat, of East Germany. Danny Everett, of the United States, set a world indoor record for the men's 400 metres at Stuttgart yesterday (AP reports). His time was 45.04 seconds.

Rambos with English accents under attack

Jacques Fouroux, the French rugby union coach, yesterday attacked England, who beat his side 26-7 in Paris on Saturday. "Last year I was accused of Rambomania — but this year the Rambos were on the other side," he said.

"The English have adopted a style of play which is realistic and rigorous but certainly not imaginative. They prop this up with a kind of fury and ferocity in defence. These are words we are not allowed to use in France — we talk about fluidity, enjoyment and spectacle."

Fouroux's remarks contrasted with his compliments for England immediately after the match. "If you put black shirts on them, they could have passed for All Blacks," he had said then.

Serge Blanco, the veteran full back, who failed to score the 11 points he needs to become France's highest

scorer, said the weather had a demoralizing effect on his side. "Our style of play is not encouraged by high winds, but it isn't England's close and strong play," he said.

There were calls from the crowd at Parc des Princes for the resignation of Fouroux and Albert Ferrasse, the president of the French Rugby Federation.

France will decide next Sunday on their team to play Scotland at Murrayfield on February 17. Several forwards may be in danger of losing their places while Louis Armand, the Lourdes booker, who left the field with a pinched nerve in his neck, may not be fit.

England, who play Wales at Twickenham on the same day and who lead the five nations' championship table with wins over Ireland and France, are due to announce their team today.

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Suspense in Davis Cup tie

Cagliari (Reuters) — The outcome of Sweden's Davis Cup world group first round tie against Italy hinged on the last set when bad light stopped play yesterday.

With the light failing, the captains suspended play until today with the decisive final reverse singles balanced at two sets each after Paolo Cane, of

Italy, fought back to 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5 against Mats Wilander.

Wally Masur who beat Yannick Noah in the opening singles, defeated Henri Leconte 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 to give Australia victory in their tie against France yesterday.

On Saturday, Rick Leach and Jim Pugh provided the United States with an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their world group tie against Mexico, with a doubles victory that put the Americans into the quarter-finals against Czechoslovakia.

Austria clinched a first-round victory over Spain as Thomas Muster, their No. 1, overpowered Sergio Bruguera, aged 19, 7-5, 6-1, 7-6.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Training squad

Linda Bayman, Vicky Thomas and Claire Mourihan — the Curtis Cup golfers — team up with the Ryder Cup captain, Bernard Gallacher, for a week's training in Portugal from March 10 to 17. Also in the squad, which will get intensive coaching from Gallacher over the Quinta do Lago course, is Helen Dobson.

Everett: world indoor record

See page 44

Davison bout

John Davison, of Newcastle, has been given a chance for the World Boxing Council international featherweight title at Hartlepool on March 20. The former England amateur international, aged 31, will take on the holder, Srikoon Natchawat, of Thailand.

Protest rally

East Berlin (Reuters) — East Germany's sports community, worried that political change could reduce its athletic prowess, have staged protests against cutbacks.

Irish racing

halted by high winds

The race meeting at Leopardstown yesterday became the latest victim of the bad weather sweeping over the British Isles. The meeting was cancelled because of high winds. Sandown Park, Chepstow and Stratford were all lost to the weather on Saturday.

Every Football League

match in London was washed out on Saturday by the torrential rain which is sweeping across the south and west of England. Scotland escaped the worst of the weather. There was only one postponement — Dumbarton v Kilmarnock in the second division.

Non-league football

was also badly hit. Seven FA Trophy second round ties were called off and the Vauxhall League premier division programme was wiped out.

The Swedish motor rally

was postponed because of special stages. Officials at Karlstad said warm temperatures had melted snow and brought more rain than usual.

UEFA draw

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — UEFA has announced the qualifying groups for the European under-21 football championship.

Neville elected

Joan Neville, a county magistrate from Gwent, has been elected chairman of the Ladies' Golf Union.

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